Sachcha Deen

(True Way of Life)

Part-II

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PREFACE

There was a longfelt need for such books through which young ones could be taught Islam, its beliefs, teachings, practices,rituals and etiquette in a precise, lucid and easy style.

Since last decade the national syllabi is promoting the teachings and culture of a particular religion which contradicts with the belief of Islam. This development has aggravated the need of such a set of books which could counter the ill effects of our national syllabi on the minds of young Muslims.

Features of this set of books:

1. It has been compiled in easy language and in an attractive style.
2. Children's psychology and interest has been considered.
3. In every part of the set a comprehensive picture of Islam has been presented and the various dimensions have been noted down in a phased manner.
4. Without missing the spirit, the information has been given in a concise and easy language.
5. For the benefit of students the books are compiled taking the advice of scholars of diffferent 'maslak', and having them reviewed by them.
6 Keeping in view the tender minds, the commonly agreed principles have been incorporated.

No-Islamic beliefs and teachings have been spread through out prevalent school syllabi. Thus, in this respect, it has been tried to present the truth, so that the impressionable minds can be protected from their ill effects.

We invite your suggestions and advice to make it more useful.

May Allah accept our endeavours.

Rampur **Afzal Hussain**

Ist May 1961

Lesson 1

ISLAM AND IT'S BENEFITS

Islam means submission to Allah, to obey Him, to follow the path shown by Him. Allah created all of us. Big or small, He makes everything. He fulfils everyone's needs alone. He sustains all. He gives life to all. That is why the entire mankind is His servant and His slave. Due, Sky, earth, sun, moon, stars and planets are all subservient to Him. He is the One, who blows the wind. Rain falls at His behest. Everything is subservient to Him and follows the path shown by Him. Even for us this is the right path and our welfare lies in it that we obey Allah and follow His path. This means Islam should be adopted. The one who adopts Islam is known as Muslim. All the virtues of both the worlds lie within Islam. That is the reason why Islam is very beneficial to its followers. One becomes the best man of the world. Unlimited virtues are to be found in him. Such will be his excellence that others cannot compete with him.

Here are certain excellent virtues of the follower of Islam:

1. He is pious and virtuous. He is away from all vices. He knows that Allah is pleased with virtues and displeased with vices. Sometimes if he commits a mistake by oversight, immediately he repents and becomes pious

again.

2. He is true to his words. Never lies. As he knows that to lie is the root of all evils.
3. He keeps his promises. Always fulfils them and never breaks them. That is the reason people have faith in his promises.
4. He is honest in his dealings. Never deceives anyone or misappropriates. He knows that people can be deceived, but nothing can be hidden from Allah. For Allah knows even the secrets of hearts.
5. He is rich of heart, big-hearted. He is not greedy for other's wealth or their good possessions. He does not beg from anybody.
6. He is courageous and fearless. He is not afraid of anyone, but Allah. He knows that unless Allah commands, no power on earth can harm him.
7. He behaves virtuously with his relatives. He very well knows the rights of parents, siblings and his kith and kin. He does help them to his utmost capacity.
8. He is also helpful to those in distress and misery. He cares for the poor, miserable, orphan and widow. He comforts them and gives relief to them and thereby wins Allah's reward for virtue.
9. He is on good and loving terms with everybody. He is polite to elders and loves the younger ones. Big or small, rich or poor, all are happy with his behaviour. He does not like to hurt anyone's feelings.
10. If someone has done favour to him, he never forgets it and does return the favour.
11. He is an embodiment of modesty and hates acts of immodesty. He treats other's honour and prestige as his

own and protects it.

12. He is not jealous of anyone. Other people's lives, wealth and honour are safe with him.
13. He does justice to everyone. He does not oppress anyone. He does not harass people. While dispensing justice, he is fair without showing any bias towards his people; all are equal to him; his own or others.
14. He is not haughty. He does not strut. He does not boast of his good qualities and action. He knows that all greatness and magnanimity is only for Allah. All human beings are helpless and powerless. They are all Allah's servants and slaves. They have nothing of their own. Whatever they possess are given by Allah.
15. He chooses for others what he likes for himself. He is not contemptuous of others. He does not disgrace them.
16. He does not usurp other's wealth nor defames anyone. He does not grimace at others nor does he mimic or imitate anyone.
17. He does not talk ill of anyone in his or her absence.
18. He does not touch anyone's possessions without the owner's permission.
19. He does not misbehave with others nor does he like them doing so with him.

These are certain good qualities, which are evident in a person because of Islam. This is the reason Allah chose Islam for us, resolved it to be the true religion, and its followers were given the glad tidings of success. If you are actually a Muslim, having perfect faith in Allah, then you are an exalted person.

Can anybody be more exalted and successful than a person with all these qualities?

Exercise

I. Following are given some good and bad qualities of people. Write 'G' for good quality and 'B' for bad quality against each of them:

1. They do not keep their promises------
2. If they commit some mistakes, they repeat them again-----
3. They are true to their words----------
4. They are envious of others wordly possessions----------
5. They behave virtuously with everybody----------
6. They give all legitimate rights and dues of their relatives----
7. They do not fear anybody but Allah--------
8. They are not polite to elders and do not love yonug ones----
9. They are not proud of their virtues----------

II. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words:

1. Islam means ..... to Allah.
2. Entire mankind is Allah's .....
3. Our welfare lies in ..... Allah.
4. The one who adopts ..... is known as Muslim.

III. Answer the following questions:

1. Why is Islam beneficial to its followers?
2. Illustrate some of the virtues of followers of Islam.
3. Why Allah chose Islam for us?
4. What is the promise of Allah to those who follow Islam?

Lesson 2

EIMAAN

Thanks to Allah that we are Muslims. Allah has granted us the riches of religion and faith. If it were not for His great generosity, we would have been wandering astray like those who are misled or misguided and have imperilled both the worlds.

Our religion is Islam. Islam means obedience to Allah. Allah commands only for good deeds and virtues and prohibits evil deeds and vices. Obviously, everyone's welfare lies in obeying Allah. And to be virtuous and avoid vices. This is Islam and the only true religion in the sight of Allah. The prosperity and welfare of both the worlds lies in adopting and following Islam, namely obedience to Allah. Nobody can succeed after abandoning the straight path of Islam.

Eimaan or faith is firm belief. It is necessary for every Muslim to firmly believe in *Tauheed* (Oneness of Allah) and *Risalat* (Prophethood) and *Aakhirat* (life after death).

Unless one believes in Tauheed, Risalat and Aakhirat from the very depths of his heart, he can never obey Allah. In other words, neither can he follow Islam nor can he be a Muslim. That is why we believe in basic princples of Islam and protect our faith.

Tauheed

Tauheed means to believe firmly that Allah is one and the only

one. Our firm belief is that Allah is unique in His name and all Characteristics. He has created all. He provides livelihood to all. He gives life and death. He is everyone's Ruler and King. He controls earth, sky, sun, moon, stars, planets, living and non-living beings, big or small, all things in the universe. Kings, their subjects, rich and poor, small and big, all are dependent on Him. He is totally selfreliant. Jins, angels, prophets, and saints are all His servants and slaves. Profits and losses; dignity and disgrace; wealth and riches are all in His hands. Unless He wills nothing could harm or benefit us. If He wants to give, it cannot be prevented. If He wants to deprive, it cannot be granted. If He captures, there is no rescue. If He wants to release, there is no captivity. He has no partner in any of His actions. He is omnipresent. He listens and sees everything. He has full knowledge of everything. He is above all weaknesses and evils. He possesses all kinds of virtues. If there are any excellent qualities anywhere, it is bestowed by Him.

Belief in oneness of Allah makes us Muslim. We worship only Allah. We do not bow before anyone else nor beg of anyone. We seek nobody's protection than of His. We cry out to Him in our distress and misery. We know that whatever we get is given by Allah. No one else can either give us or take away from us anything. We are in awe of Allah openly and secretly. We do nothing against His will because we know very well that we cannot escape from His clutches if we go against His desire.

Risalat

Risalat means to believe in Allah's messengers. We Muslims believe that Allah sent messengers to explain to humanity Allah's will and to show them the straight path. Messengers are also called as prophets and apostles. All messengers were human beings and Allah's most virtuous servants. They were all very truthful and

innocent of all evils. These great men conveyed Allah's message to human beings and preached and practised His commands. They worked very hard to make people follow the right path. While doing so, they bore many miseries due to ignorance of people. But, they never stopped delivering the message of Allah to their people. Throughout their lives, they struggled for the welfare of human beings. They inspired and encouraged people to Allah's submission, to follow their teachings.

Allah sent many prophets. All these great men invited people towards Islam (submission to Allah). Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the last to arrive. Allah revealed the glorious Qur'an to him. No other prophet will come now. Our salvation lies only in adopting His right path till the Day of Judgment. To believe in the messages brought by prophets makes us Muslims. We believe all prophets to be Allah's true messengers and honour and respect them deeply. We believe that Muhammad (pbuh) is Allah's last messenger and also believe that by following him, salvation can be achieved. If we find any Saying or Tradition of the Prophet, we immediately accept it. For all purposes, we follow the model of the Prophet and do not spoil our faith by imitating others.

Aakhirat

Aakhirat means to believe that there will be a life after death. This is the third issue after Tauheed and Risalat, which we Muslims firmly believe is life after death. We believe that one day all living beings will die, the whole world will be destroyed. There will be nothing in the universe, neither sky nor earth. Neither sun nor moon and stars. Then, Allah will again give life to everybody. The whole lot of dead mankind will be raised again and will be gathered in the ground of doomsday. There every man and woman will have to render account for their deeds — good and bad — to Allah.

Everyone's virtues and vices will be disclosed. Those, who have obeyed Allah, followed His messengers, had been virtuous and avoided vices, will be rewarded. Paradise will be granted to such persons, and Allah will be pleased with them. They will stay in Heaven eternally. All kinds of comforts and luxuries will be for them at their beck and call. They will be blessed beyond their imagination.

Those, who would have disobeyed Allah; turned away from following His prophets and their teachings; and those who had done evil; those who went astray and misled others and caused troubles and mischief in the world; such people will face Allah's wrath and will be punished severely and will be thrown in the Hellfire.

Hell is the worst dwelling. They will be tormented beyond their imaginations in Hell. Allah's punishment is very severe. No one can evade Allah's wrath and seek protection elsewhere.

O! My Lord, Pardon our faults, save us from the Hellfire! Bestow on us all the prosperity of both the worlds. O! My Lord, Give us your blessings in this world and in the life Hereafter and save us from the torment of Fire (Aameen).

Exercise

I: Answer the following questions:

1. What is Eimaan and Islam?
2. Explain:
   (a) Tauheed (b) Risalat (c) Aakhirat
3. What are the requisites of faith in Risalat?
4. What exactly is meant when we say we believe in Aakhirat?
5. Describe the pleasures of Paradise and hardships of Hell.

II: Fill in the blanks:

1. .....is the only true religion in the sight of Allah.
2. It is necessary for every Muslim to firmly believe in .....
3. Jins, Angels, Prophets and Saints all are Allah's ..... and.....
4. Allah sent many.....to the earth to guide the humanity and to show the right path.
5. Allah has revealed the glorious Quran to .....
6. Prophet.....was the last messenger of Allah.
7. Allah will grant.....to those with whom He is pleased.

Lesson 3

BOOKS OF ALLAH

Allah is very benevolent. He created all and made all sorts of things. He provided us with all the necessities of life. He did not stop at this, but went on to teach us how to lead our lives in the correct manner; so that we can prosper while we are in this world and enter Paradise in the life after death. If Allah had not directed and guided us, we would have gone astray and would not have found the right path. To show the right path, Allah sent a large number of prophets and revealed His sacred books to them. These books contained Allah's commands. Prophets obeyed these commands themselves, preached them to others and taught them to obey these commands. Allah revealed a number of such books, big and small. Only Allah knows their exact number, but certainly four of them are very famous.

The Torah (*Taurait*)

Allah revealed this divine book on Prophet Moses (Moosa)(pbuh). He was the beloved messenger of Allah. We will know more about him later. For a very long time, people followed this book and lived according to its teachings and thus were prevented from going astray. But, gradually they — Jews, the followers of this book — brought about many changes in it. They added irrelevant things to this book. Carelessness and wickedness of some people led to the distortion of the Torah. These deeds of Jews did not impair Allah, but certainly they were misled and ruined both their worlds.

The Zaboor

This book was revealed to Prophet Dawood (pbuh). Jews repeated what they did to the Torah. Ultimately, this book also lost its authenticity and creditability.

The Bible *(Injeel)*

This book was revealed to Prophet Eisa (Jesus) (pbuh). Prophet Eisa was also a very famous prophet. We will know more about him later on. After Prophet Eisa was lifted up in the heavens by the almighty Allah Christians gradually gave up following him. Some mischievous people distorted this book also. Today The Bible is available in the market, but it is not in its original form. Before Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) arrived, all these books were tampered with and had lost their authenticity.

The Glorious Qur'an

This is the last book of Allah. It was revealed to our beloved Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh). It is in Arabic language. This book of Allah retains its originality even to this date, because Allah has taken the responsibility of retaining it correctly and protecting it from distortion. Only through this book, the world can learn about the right path till doomsday. We recite the glorious Qur'an regularly. By studying Arabic language, gradually we will be able to understand what is written in this holy book.

O Allah! Make us follow the way shown by the Qur'an so that we are respected in this world and our life after death is also set right and we gain Your pleasure (Aameen).

Exercise

I: Answer the following questions:

1. Name the sacred books revealed by Allah.
2. Who were the prophets on whom the sacred books were revealed?
3. What is the purpose of sending prophets and revealing the sacred books?
4. Which is the last of the sacred books and on whom was it revealed?
5. How is the Qur'an, revealed by Allah, different from other books of Allah?
6. Except The Qur'an, other sacred books are not worth believing. why?
7. Who took the responsibility of protecting the holy Quran in its original form?

II: Match the following:

Column A	Column B
1. Torah	Prophet Daood (PBUH)
2. Bible	Prophet Moses (PBUH)
3. Quran	Prophet Jesus (PBUH)
4. Zaboor	Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)
5. Christians	Followers of Prophet Moses (PBUH)
6. Jews	Followers of Prophet Jesus (PBUH)

III: Fill in the blanks:

1. .....retains its originality.
2. Quran is the .....book of Allah.
3. We .....the Quran regularly.
4. The language of Quran is .....

5. If Allah had not directed and guided us, we would have gone .....
6. After the lifting of Prophet Jesus (PBUH) by Allah to the heavens, the Christians.....up following him.
7. .....brought about many changes in Torah.

IV: Write five sentences about the holy Quran

Lesson 4

ANGELS

Allah is the master and ruler of all. His Empire is very large. It is so large that we cannot even imagine its vastness. This huge earth of ours is a very small portion of His Empire. The whole universe is under His rule. This world of ours is divided into several big and small countries. Every country has its own government. To run even a small country, many government officials are needed. Allah's empire engulfs the whole universe and his countless servants are engaged in their respective jobs everywhere. These servants of Allah are known as angels. Government servants have certain authorities and sometimes they act according to their own will. But, Allah's servants — angels — have no such authority and they never act according to their own wishes. Governments are compelled to use the services of their employees but Allah is not. He knows and controls everything. It is through His expedience that He carries out certain work through angels, whom He has created.

We humans are created out of mud. Angels are created out of luminosity. They are not like us. They have no sex (neither women nor men). Neither do they eat nor drink. Neither do they sleep nor doze. They are scattered everywhere, but invisible like air. They have arms. Some have two arms; some have three or four arms. All angels are virtuous, innocent of all evils and vices. Angels are very obedient by their nature. They do only what is entrusted to them. They cannot

do anything against Allah's commands. They are always alert, attentive for Allah's orders. They execute these orders properly. They dare not change any orders and go against the Master's Will. They do not interfere in Allah's work. Angels are innumerable. Only Allah knows their exact number. But, we have been given knowledge by the almighty Allah about certain angels' names and their jobs. The same is listed as under:

Hazrat Gabriel(Jibraeil)(A.S.)

This is the most important angel. He brings Allah's commands from heavens to prophets on earth. Angel Gabriel **(A.S.)** was the one who conveyed Allah's message to our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Little by little, he brought the holy Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) by Allah's order. Whenever Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) suffered while preaching the Faith (Islam), Gabriel was sent by Allah to console the Prophet. The method of performing Salat (five times daily prayers), times of Salat and many other such things were conveyed to our beloved Prophet through Angel Gabriel. At times, when Gabriel's visits were delayed, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) grew restless and anxious. He was comforted only after this angel's visit. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is Allah's last messenger. No other prophet of Allah will come on this earth now. So archangel Gabriel's job has since been completed. Now, he is busy worshipping and praising Allah for His greatness and immaculation.

Hazrat Michael(Meekae'il)(A.S.)

He is another famous angel. He is responsible for providing everyone's livelihood. By Allah's commands, he blows the wind, brings the rain and provides sustenance. But, like other angels, he is also helpless and powerless. Without Allah's commands, he

cannot do anything on his own. He cannot blow the wind nor can bring the rain, nor provide a single grain to anyone. He does all this only when Allah commands him to do so. Everything gets shape by Allah's command.

Hazrat Isra'feil(A.S.)

His job is to blow the trumpet (*soor*) on doomsday. The sound of this trumpet is very sharp and dreadful. He will blow this trumpet twice on doomsday. When he blows for the first time, all the humanity will die and the whole world will come to an end. With the blowing of the trumpet for the second time, the entire dead mankind will rise up alive and gather in the ground of doomsday and account for their lives. on doomsday. The sound of this trumpet is very sharp and dreadful. He will blow this trumpet twice on doomsday. When he blows for the first time, all the humanity will die and the whole world will come to an end. With the blowing of the trumpet for the second time, the entire dead mankind will rise up alive and gather in the ground of doomsday and account for their li

Hazrat Izra'eil(A.S.)

His job is to take away the lives of all the living beings. But, he cannot kill even one insect of his own. Allah has fixed the time of each and everyone's death. Small or big whenever his or her time is up, at Allah's commands, Angel Izrail snatches away his or her life.

Apart from these four famous angels, there are also some famous angels as detailed below:

Kiraman Katibeen

They are the angels, who note down our deeds. With every human being, Allah has attached two angels. They are with us all

the times. Every single thing we do, is observed by them. They listen, see and note down whatever we say or do. Nothing escapes their observation, either our virtues or vices. These two angels note down everything. On the Day of Judgment, every single aspect of our life will be disclosed. We will ascertain ourselves what we have done with our lives. This is the reason we Muslims are afraid of Allah even when we are alone. We do not go against His wishes. Nobody in his right sense wants his destruction by spoiling his records of conduct.

Munkar Nakeer

They are stranger-angels. These two angels come to everyone after his death. They ask people about their way of life and their faith (Deen). As they appear suddenly and one cannot recognize them by their looks, they are called as strangers (Munkar Nakeer).

Allah has appointed some angels to look after Heaven and Hell. The angel in charge of Heaven is called Rizwan and the one in charge of Hell is called Maalik.

Hafazah (Protector)

This is the name of those angels, who protect people from miseries and distress.

Some angels join us while we perform Salat. They join us even in our good and pious meetings. They do so to testimonise our deeds and presence in these meetings, to Allah.

Inshort, there are various angels for various tasks and they have no power to impose their will and consent. Whatever they do is done at Allah's commands.

Exercise

I: Answer the following questions:

1. Who are angels and what are their duties?
2. Name any two of the angels and describe their duties.
3. What are the characteristics of angels?
4. When do Munkar Nakeer appear?
5. What is the job of Kiraman Katibeen?

II: Write the name of proper angel against the duties given below:

1. Provide livelihood to every living being.....
2. Takes away the lives of all living beings.....
3. Protects people from mistries and distress.....
4. Will blow the trumpet on doomsday.....

III: Write true or false in the bracket:

1. As soon as Allah commands, angel Israfeel (A.S.) snatches away ones life. ( )
2. We Muslims have fear of Allah even when we are alone. ( )
3. When Israfeel (A.S.) will blow the trumpet for the first time, entire mankind will rise up alive. ( )
4. After the second blow, the whole universe will come to an end. ( )
5. Angels can interfere in the acts of Allah. ( )
6. Allah has fixed the time of each and everyone's death. ( )
7. Some angels join us in our Salat and other pious meetings. ( )
8. Angels eat, drink, sleep and wake up like us. ( )

IV: Select the correct alternative for the following words:

1.Hafazah

a) Human beings who protec others.

b) Angels who protects people from mistries and distress.

c) Jins who protect us.

2. Kiram Katibeen

a) Angels who take away the lives.

b) Two angels attached with us for noting down our deeds.

c) Shaitan who stimulates us for bad deeds.

3. Munkar Nakeer

a) Angels who join us in our Salat and other pious meetings.

b) Two angels come to everyone after death and ask some questions about their way of life and their deen.

Lesson 5

FUNDAMENTALS OF FAITH

Our faith (Deen) or religion is Islam. Islam means submission; to obey Allah; to live under His guidance. Everyone's welfare lies in embracing Islam and following correctly Allah's commands. In order to adopt Islam, five fundamental points are necessary. These five fundamental points to Islam are like pillars to a building. No building can be erected without pillars. If pillars fall, the building also collapses. The building of Islam rests on these five pillars:

1. Eimaan (Testimony of Faith)
2. Salat (Prayer)
3. Rozah (Fasting)
4. Zakat (Alms), and
5. Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)

Eimaan (Testimony of Faith)

This is the first pillar of Islam. It means to believe firmly and say the following words which mean that **"there is no God but Allah and Muhammad (pbuh) is Allah's servant and prophet".**

"Ash'hadu Allailaha-illal-lahu-wa-ash'hadu-anna-Muhammadan-abduhu-wa-Rasuluhu"

اَشهد اَن لَّآ اِلٰـهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ مُحَمَّداً عَبْدُهٗ وَرَسُوْلُهٗ

This is also known as testimony of Kalimah. Obviously, unless

we testify thus, how can we obey Allah, how can we adopt our beloved Prophet's way of life? How can human beings be obedient to Allah without Eimaan?

Salat (Namaz)

Salat is the second pillar of Islam. We must perform Salat correctly and regularly. It is Salat, which reminds us five times a day that we are Allah's servants and slaves. We are to follow His orders, seek pardon for our faults, to avoid disobeying in future. The person who is not committed to Salat cannot remember Allah's wish and His orders and thus will ruin both his worlds. That is why Salat so much stress is given upon Salat. This will be the first among our deeds for which we will have to render the account before the almighty Allah on the day of judgement.
Those who never offered Salat and those who were irregular with their Salat will be punished severely.

Fasting (Rozah)

This is the third pillar of Islam. We have to observe fast during the whole month of "Ramazan"should be used. Every year, we fast during the whole month of "Ramazan"should be used. At Allah's behest , we do not drink or eat the whole day. It so happens that sometimes in life, we Muslims have to face hardships of hunger while following Islam. We may even have to starve. Livelihood through correct means may not be possible. In such circumstances, the practice of fasting will help us carry out Allah's commands and face the hurdles, including hunger and starvation. These are the additional and subsidiary benifits of fasting. Real intention behind fasting however remains to please Allah.

Zakat (Alms)

This is the fourth pillar of Islam. We have to spend annually

a prescribed amount out of our savings for Allah's sake. The love of wealth and riches sometimes misleads a person from the right path. Zakat dispels the love of wealth from our hearts and instead infuses the love of Allah who wants that wealth should not gather in the hands of rich people only. By giving Zakat, we will not be entrapped by the love of wealth and will not disobey Allah.

Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)

This is the fifth pillar of Islam. Every Muslim who can afford the visit, has to perform Hajj of Kaba (Allah's house) at least once in his/her lifetime. Hajj consists of all bodily Ibadat as well that of wealth. Obedience of Allah can be perfect only when all human beings do it together. Otherwise, some will obey, while others create obstacles in the path of submission. Allah made His house Kaba, the centre of the whole world for Muslims so that people upon whom Hajj is obligatory, gather there once in a year. Together they obey Allah's commands and preach to all to obey Him.

These five points are very essential to follow Allah's way. That is why they are called pillars of Islam. On these pillars rests the entire deen of Islam, the universal and eternal way of life for whole of the humanity..

Exercise

I: Answer the following questions:

1. What are the five fundamental pillars of Islam?
2. Why are these called pillars?
3. What is the testimony of faith?
4. What does Salat remind us?
5. How many fasts are obligatory on us during Ramzan?
6. Why should we give Zakat?

7. Which is the first thing out of our deeds we will have to account for on the day of judgement?

II: Write true or false:

1. Without having faith in Allah, we can not be obedient to Him.
2. It is the recitation of the holy Quran in Salat which reminds us that we are Allah's servants and slaves.
3. The first thing out of our deeds we will have to account for on the day of judgement is Rozah.
4. Offering Salat regularly helps us remember the almighty Allah's wish and complying His orders.
5. The love of wealth and riches sometimes distracts a person from the right path.
6. During the month of Ramzan every year we leave eating and drinking for a certain period of time.
7. One has to perform the Hajj thrice in his life time.

Lesson 6

SALAT (NAMAZ)

Salat is an important pillar of our religion (Islam). He who establishes Salat is establishing the religion itself. Giving up Salat is akin to demolishing the religion. Salat makes us obedient of Allah. One cannot be obedient to Allah, if he does not offer Salat. Salat distinguishes a Muslim from a non-believer. On the Day of Judgment, Allah will first judge our Salat. If it is accepted, all other virtues and good deeds will be rewarded; otherwise they will be rejected. Salat is the key to Paradise. For our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Salat was the biggest solace. Salat is the point of pinnacle of our deeds.

One night, our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was called onto the Heavens to visit Allah. This was the night of accession (Me'raj). During Salat, we are in the presence of Allah and speak to Him. Salat is *Me'raj-ul-Momineen.* Salat protects us from vices and immodesty. Salat makes us pious and absolves us of our faults. Through Salat, we amass prosperity of both the worlds.

Emphasis on Salat

The importance of Salat is evident by the emphasis on it in the Holy Qur'an. Salat has been mentioned more than seven hundred times in the Qur'an. This shows the significance of Salat and Allah's love for it. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

also stressed on establishing Salat. He described Salat as his solace and a pillar of Islam. Salat is defined as Islam's distinction and the best form of Jehad (supreme effort). The punishment of abandoning Salat is very severe. People who do not perform Salat ruin both their worlds. Our belovedProphet Muhammad (pbuh) has said:

> *"I feel like setting fire to the houses of those people, who do not come out for Salat after hearing the call of prayer (Azan)."*

The beloved Prophet also said:

> *"Instruct your children to perform Salat when they are seven years of age; and beat them if they do not offer Salat when they are ten years of age".*

Our Prophet came as a blessing to mankind. He never struck children, but loved them a lot. However, as far as Salat was concerned, he ordered punishment for children. This determines the significance and necessity of Salat .

Appointed times of Salat and its other details

1.Fajr:

Time for Salat of *Fajr* begins with the dawn of early morning. It lasts till sunrise. Even if a little bit of sun makes its appearance on the horizon, the time for *Fajr* is deemed to be over. Then onlyafter sunrise, we can offer deferred (*Qaza*) Salat of *Fajr.*

During *Fajr* Salat, four *rakats* of Salat are performed. First, we perform two *rakats S*unnah. These two *rakats S*unnah arevery

important. Then two *rakats* Farz. In Farz, Imam leads the prayer and other persons offer Salat in congregation behind him. Takbeer is recited in the beginning of Salat. Imam recites Surah Al-Fatiha and other Qur'anic verses loudly. Sunnah Salat is offered individually and recitation of Qur'an is done in hushed voice. Takhbeer is not recited before Sunnah.

2. Zohar:

The time for Zohar begins after the sun starts to decline and ends with the time for *Asr*. But it is better to offer Zohar Salat before the time of *Asr* begins. There are ten *rakats* of Salat in Zohar. First four Sunnah followed by four rakats of Farz and again two rakats of Sunnah. There is another difference in the four rakats of Sunnah of Zohar from four rakats of Farz. We recite only Surah Al-Fatiha in the last two rakats of Farz. But in in the last two rakats of Sunnah also,we recite another sura after Surah Al-Fatiha.

3. Asr:

The time for *Asr* begins when the shadow of a thing becomes double of its original size and remains immediately before sunset. However, Asr Salat should be offered well before sunset because when the sun lowers, begins losing its brightness and grows yellowish, Salat of Asr becomes undesirable. Therefore, it should be performed well in time. Four rakats of Farz are offered in Salat of Asr. Like the four rakats of Zohar, this is also recited in hushed voice.

4. Maghrib:

The time for *Maghrib* Salat begins after the sun has set and lasts till the crimson on the western horizon disappears. It is better to offer Salat in the early moments after sunset, as it is

undesirable to delay the Salat. Five *rakats* are offered in *Maghrib* Salat. First three Farz and later two Sunnah.

5. Isha:

The time for *Isha* Salat begins after the time of Maghrib Salat ends; and lasts till the time of dawn. But the desirable time for *Isha* Salat is till midnight. There are nine *rakats* of Salat in *Isha*. First four Farz, then two Sunnah and lastly three *rakats* of witr. The first two *rakats* of witr is performed as usual Salat. After the second rakat and after reciting the *At-Tahiyyat*, one stands up for the third *rakat* in which after reciting Surah Al-Fatiha and another surah or some verses of the Quran, one lifts or raises the hands saying Allah-o-Akbar and again folds them. Then *Dua-e-Qunoot* is recited. After this, one goes for ruku saying Allah-o-Akbar and finishes the third rakat as usual.

Namaz-e-Juma:

Juma Salat is performed every Friday at the time of Zohar. We put on clean clothes after taking a bath and reach the Jama Masjid early. We first perform four rakats Sunnah. When Imam comes and sits on the steps of the rostrum, the Mu'azzin calls the second Azan. After Azan, the Imam stands up facing the congregation and gives his khutba (sermon). On completion of the khutba, the *Juma* namaz of two *rakats* Farz is offered. All the people offer these two *rakats* congregatively. After Farz, we offer first four *rakats* Sunnah and another two *rakats Nafil* (optional prayer). Some people , after Farz offer either only four *rakats* or two *rakats* Sunnah.

On Fridays, Zohar prayer is not offered. Instead, the Juma prayer is offered. That is why there is no necessity of offering Zohar prayers.

At the end of Zohar, Juma, Maghrib and Isha prayers, two

rakats Nafil (optional prayer) is also offered.

The prohibited timings of Salat

Every Salat is prohibited at the time of sunrise or when the sun sets in. It is also prohibited to offer Salat when the sun is right at its peak on our heads. Likewise, it is prohibited to offer Nafl after Fajr and to offer Nafl between Asr and Maghrib.

Exercise

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Why is Salat (Namaz) so essential for every Muslim and what are its benefits?
2. What are the timings of five Salat and how many rakats are to be performed in each Salat?
3. What is *Meraj-ul-Momineen*?
4. What differentiates a Muslim from a non-Muslim?
5. Explain how the Witr Salat is offered?
6. Expain the procedure of Jumah Salat. How many Farz and Sunnah are there in it?

II. Who said the following and what do we learn from them?

1. "I feel like setting on fire the houses of those people who do not come out for Salat after hearing the call for Salat (Azan)".
2. " Instruct your children to offer Salat from the age of seven years and beat them up in case they do not offer Salat even after attaining the age of ten years".

III. Complete the following tables:

A:

Name of the Salat	Timings From	upto	Desireable Timings
Maghrib			
Fajr			
Asr			
Isha			
Jumah			
Zohar			

B:

Name of the Salat	No. of Rakats Farz	Sunnat Before Farz	Sunnat After Farz	Witr
Zohar				
Fajr				
Isha				
Asr				
Maghrib				
Jumah				

IV. Fill in the blanks:

1. Salat is the key to.....
2. .....protects us from vices and immodesty.
3. .....is the pillar of our religion.
4. We perform the Friday prayer in lieu of .....

Lesson 7

REQUISITES FOR SALAT

There are certain necessary requisites to begin any work. Unless they are completed, that work cannot be commenced. Take for example studies: one needs a book, pen, pencil, a slate or a copy. A teacher and a place to study are also needed. The work of studying will not be accomplished completely if these necessary things are lacking. This is true of Salat too. To offer Salat properly, there are certain requisites. We cannot commence Salat unless they are completed. Salat will not be valid without these requisites. They are:

1. The body should be clean and *wuzoou* (ablution)is included in this.
2. Clothes should be neat and clean.
3. The place where Salat is offered should also be neat and clean.
4. The *satr* (parts of the body ordered to be covered) should be covered.
5. Salat should be performed within the permissible time.
6. The face should be turned towards *Qibla*.
7. There should be an intention to pray (*Niyat*)

These pre-requisites for Salat should be completed before it is being offered.

1. We wash the unclean part of the body

We clean our concerned body parts completely after answering natural calls. We bath if we need to clean our whole body.

If ablution is necessary, we do it with great care. We know very well that even if we offer Salat properly without ablution, it will not be accepted. In short, we present ourselves very neat and clean and in a state of ablution to Allah. We have aversion towards filth and impurity. We do not want to spoil our Salat.

2. When the clothes are not clean, we clean them before performing Salat

If our clothes are smeared with filth like urine, excrement, mud from gutter or any other dirt, we wash it off three times with clean water and wring it out thoroughly. When there is no time to wash away the filth and clothes are very dirty, we change the clothes. We do no present ourselves in dirty clothes to Allah. We never dress in unclean garments while presenting ourselves in front of Allah. Salat should never be performed in dirty clothes.

3. Salat should be offered only in a neat and clean place

Mats, prayer carpets and floor, everything should be clean and neat. We cannot offer Salat in an unclean place. Even if our body and clothes are clean, Salat will not be valid when the place of offering Salat is dirty.

4. We dress completely to offer Salat

We do not attend Allah's audience awkwardly dressed. We wear a cap on head, shirt with sleeves, which cover the elbows and a pajama, or a lower garment, which covers the knees, besides covering all other parts of the body, which should be concealed. If one is unable to dress completely, the least one should do is to cover one's body from the navel to the knees. Men's Salat is not valid if their bodies are covered less than this. My mother and elder sister wrap their veils around in such a way that only their face, palms and ankles are uncovered. Lady's Salat is not valid if any other parts of their bodies are left uncovered.

5. Allah fixes the timing of Salat

Every Salat has to be performed within its prescribed time. Before starting to pray, we make sure and satisfy ourselves regarding the time. We cannot pray Zohar before the decline of the sun. Neither do we hasten nor delay Salat. We pray only within the permissible time. No Salat is valid before or after its fixed time. So time is considered to be a very important factor. We neither hasten to pray before time nor do we delay without reason let the time of Salat is over.

6. Ka'ba is our Qibla

We always pray in that direction. All mosques are built in the direction of *Qibla*. So it is easy to determine the direction of *Qibla* in a mosque. But, when we are travelling and find difficulty in locating the direction of *Qibla*, we should ask unhesitatingly with those who know it. Salat is not valid if we intentionally turn to any other direction. So the direction of *Qibla* should be ascertained satisfactorily before Salat.

7. Niyyat (Intention)

In the beginning of any Salat, we make intention in our heart as to which Salat or how many Raka'ts of a particular Salat we intend to offer for, without it, our Salat will not be valid. There is no harm if Niyat is said orally too besides making the same by heart. However, it is not obligatory to say Niyat orally.

This is how we take care of these seven pre-requisites of Salat before offering the same for, without these, our Salat may not be accepted by the almighty Allah.

Exercise

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Write the the requisites of Salat in sequence.
2. What should we do to clean our body?
3. What should we do when our clothes are smeared with flith like urine, excrement and other impurities?
4. How should we prepare ourselves before going to Mosque?
5. What are the minimum limits of covering the body parts by male and female devotees respectively for offering Salat?
6. What is Niyyat (intention) and how it should be made for offering Salat?

II. Write true or false:

1. Before the commencement of Salat, ten requisite are to be completed.( )
2. Salat can be offered without ablution.( )
3. We present ourselves in the audience of the almighty Allah in a neat and clean condition. ( ).
4. We hate filth and dirt. ( )
5. In Salat, we face towards Ka'bah, our Qiblah. ( )
6. No Salat is valid before or after its permissible time. ( )

III. Fill in the blanks:

1. .....has prescribed the times for Salat.
2. We present ourselves before ..... in a neat and clean condition.
3. If our body is dirty, we.....it.
4. We turn our face towards .....in every Salat.
5. .....in heart is necessary for offering Salat.

Lesson 8

FUNDAMENTALS OF SALAT

There are seven constituents of Salat. Salat will not be valid even if a single constituent is left out. Just as pillars are important for a building, these constituents are also important for Salat. So they are called as pillars or fundamentals of Salat. There are seven fundamentals of Salat:

1. *Takbeer-e-Tahreema* = To say Allah-o-Akbar
2. *Qiyam* = Standing
3. *Qir'at* = Recitation of the Qur'an
4. *Ruku* = Making a bow
5. *Sajda* = Prostrating
6. *Qaida* = Sitting
7. *Salam* = Ending the Salat

We know how to offer Salat. After Niyyat — intending to pray, saying Allah-o-Akbar, we raise our hands. This is the beginning of Salat. Now we can neither speak to anyone nor walk. Neither can we see either side. It is essential to say Allah-o-Akbar in the beginning of Salat. Without this, Salat is not valid. After saying Takbeer, we stand straight for some time. While standing for Salat, it is obligatory to remain standing atleast for such a period of time in which one complete long verse —Ayat —or two or three short verses of the Qur'an can be

recited. After this, we bow in Ruku. We know all these procedures are very essential. If any constituent is left, Salat will not be valid. After standing straight from bowing, we fall to prostrate (Sajdah). Lastly, we sit for some time to recite Attahiyyat and Darood. To prostrate and to sit are also very essential. If anyone of this is left out, Salat will not be valid. We intentionally terminate Salat by uttering Salam. Salat is over now. We are out of Salat.

To finish Salat in a formal manner is also very necessary. Or else it is not valid.

Thus,to perform Salat perfectly, there are fourteen requisites, seven before the beginning of Salat, and another seven while performing Salat. These are called fundamentals of Salat. Neglecting even one of these fourteen fundamentals spoils the validity of Salat. So all care should be taken to follow them.

Exercise

I. Answer the following questions:

1. How many fundamentals of Salat are there to be observed before the start of Salat?
2. What is the *Takbeer-e-Tahreema*?
3. What does the Salam meant?
4. What minimum number of Aayyat should we recite in a Raka't?
5. When do we recite Attahiyyat and Darood in Salat?

II. Requisites and fundamentals of Salat are given below. Write them in proper sequence.

1. To say Allah-o-Akbar
2. Neat and clean clothes
3. Performing Salat in line

4. Bowing in Ruku
5. To stand upright
6. Body should be clean (Ablution included)
7. To sit in the end of Salat (Qa'edah)
8. Place of performing the Salat should be clean
9. Niyyat (intention) for Salat
10. Sajdah
11. Turning the face towards Qiblah
12. Covering the Satr
13. Recitation of the Quran

III. Fill in the blanks:

1. To perform Salat perfectly, there are total .....requisites.
2. .....are before the beginig of the Salat and they are called.....
3. .....are during the course of the performance of Salat.
4. Neglecting even.....of these ..... fundamentals.....the validity of.....
5. So all.....should be taken to follow them.

Lesson 9

RECITATION IN SALAT

I have memorized everything that is recited in Salat long back. All this is in Arabic. So, I was not able to understand its meaning and as to what I said to Allah while praying. I gradually learnt by heart the meaning of these recitations. Now I know the meaning of every recital from Azan to Salam. Please lend your ears.

Azan

Allah-o-Akbar اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ (recite four times) = Allah is the greatest.

Ash'hadu Alla Ilaha Illallah اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لاَّ اِلٰـهَ اِلاَّ اللّٰهُ (recite two times) = I testify that none is worthy of worship but Allah.

Ash'hadu Anna Muhammadar-Rasulullah اَشْهَدُ اَنَّ مُحَمَّداً رَّسُوْلُ اللّٰه (recite two times) = I testify that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.

Hayya Alas Salah حَيَّ عَلَى الصَّلٰوة (recite two times) = Come for Salat.

Hayya Alal Falah حَيَّ عَلَى الْفَلَاح (recite two times) = Come towards success.

Allah-o-Akbar اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَر (recite two times) = Allah is the greatest.

La Ilaha Illallah لاَ اِلٰهَ اِلاَّ اللّٰهُ (recite once) = None is worthy of worship, but Allah.

An additional phrase is included twice in the Azan for the Fajr prayer after the second 'Hayya 'alal Falah'

which is "*As salatu Khayrum minan nawm* (Prayer is better than sleep).

Iqamat

After Azan, when Imam is ready to lead the congregatory prayer, Iqamat is recited generally by the same persom who had pronounced the Azan (Muazzin). The wording of the Iqamat are same that of Azan except that after Hayya Alal Falah حَیَّ عَلَی الْفَلَاح, Qad Qamatis-Salah (indeed Salat has been started) is said by the person pronouncing the Iqamat.

Takbeer-e-Tehreemah

After the pronouncement of Iqamat, the Imam starts the Salat by saying loudly:

Allaho-Akbar اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ = Allah is the greatest.

Sana

سُبْحَانَکَ اللّٰهُمَّ وَ بِحَمْدِکَ وَ تَبَارَکَ اسْمُکَ
وَ تَعَالٰی جَدُّکَ وَ لَا اِلٰهَ غَیْرُکَ

Subhanakaallahumma Wa Bihamdika Watabarakasmuka Wata a'la Jadduka Wala ilaha Ghairuk = O Allah You are Sanctified. Praise be to You. Your name is of great blessedness and Your Greatness is supreme and none is worthy of worship, except You.

Ta'awwuz

اَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّیْطَانِ الرَّجِیْمِ

Aoozu Billahi Minashshaitanir Rajeem = I seek protection of Allah from the accursed Shaitan.

Tasmiyah

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem = In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent and the Merciful.

Tasbeeh for Ruku

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْعَظِيْمِ

Subhana Rabbiyal Azeem = Glory be unto my Sustainer, the Majestic.

Tasmee in Qaumah (Between Ruku and Sajdah)

سَمِعَ اللّٰهُ لِمَنْ حَمِدَهُ

Sami Allahu Liman Hamidah = Allah listened to whosoever praised Him.

Tahmeed in Qaumah

رَبَّنَا لَكَ الْحَمْدُ

Rabbana Lakal Hamd = O Our sustainer! All the Praises are for You.

Tasbeeh in Sajda

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْاَعْلٰى

Subhana Rabbiyal A'la = Glory be unto my Sustainer, the most Exalted.

Tashah-hud (Attahiyyat)

اَلتَّحِيَاتُ لِلّٰهِ وَالصَّلَوٰتُ وَالطَّيِّبَاتُ اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ اَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَ بَرَكَاتُهٗ۔ اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْنَا وَ عَلٰى عِبَادِ اللّٰهِ الصَّالِحِيْنَ۔ اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَّآ اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهٗ وَ رَسُوْلُهٗ۔

At-tahiyatu lillahi was salawatu wat taiyyebatu. As-salamu alaika aiyuhan nabiyu wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu. As-salamu alaina wa ala ibadillahis-saleheen. Ash-hadu alla ilaha illallahu wa ash hadu anna Muhammadan abduhu wa rasuluhu.

(All the salutations, prayers and nice things are for Allah. Peace be upon you O prophet, and the blessings of Allah and His grace. Peace be upon us and all the righteous servants of Allah. I bear witness that none but Allah is worthy of worship; and bear witness that Muhammad is the servant and Messenger of Allah.)

Darood

اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ وَّعَلٰى اٰلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلٰى اِبْرَاهِيْمَ وَعَلٰى اٰلِ اِبْرَاهِيْمَ اِنَّكَ حَمِيْدٌ مَّجِيْدٌ۔ اَللّٰهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ وَّ عَلٰى اٰلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلٰى اِبْرَاهِيْمَ وَعَلٰى اٰلِ اِبْرَاهِيْمَ اِنَّكَ حَمِيْدٌ مَّجِيْدٌ۔

Allahumma salli ala Muhmmadinw wa ala ali Muhammadin, kama sallaita ala Ibraheema, wa ala ale Ibraheema innaka hameedum majeed. Allahumma barik ala Muhmmadin wa ala ali Muhammadin, kama barakta ala Ibraheema, wa ala ale Ibraheema innaka hameedum majeed.

(O Allah! Bless Muhammad (pbuh) and the offspring of Muhammad (pbuh) as You blessed Ibrahim (A.S.)and the offspring of Ibrahim (A.S.).Verily You are worthy of praise and are the most Exalted. Oh Allah! Bestow Your favours on Muhammad (pbuh)and the offspring of Muhammad (pbuh)as You bestowed Your favours on Ibrahim (A.S.)and the offspring of Ibrahim (A.S.). Verily You are worthy of praise and You are most Exalted.

Dua after Durood

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّیْ ظَلَمْتُ نَفْسِیْ ظُلْمًا كَثِیْراً وَّ لَا یَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوْبَ اِلَّآ اَنْتَ فَاغْفِرْلِیْ مَغْفِرَةً مِّنْ عِنْدِكَ وَارْحَمْنِیْٓ اِنَّكَ اَنْتَ الْغَفُوْرُالرَّحِیْمُ ؕ

Allahumma inni zalamtu nafsi zulman kasiraun wa la ya'ghfiruz zuunuuba illa anta fa'ghfir li ma'ghfiratam min 'indika warhamni innaka antal 'ghafurur rahim.

Translation: "O Allah, I have greatly wronged myself and You alone may forgive sins, so grant me forgiveness from you and have mercy on me. You are Forgiver and Merciful One.

If Allah wishes, I will soon learn the meaning of the remaining invocations and Surahs in addition to this. Then, I can understand all that I recite during Salat.

Exercise

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Write the meaning of what you recite in Azan?
2. Recite and give the meaning of Tasbih for Ruku and Sajda.
3. Write the meaning of the recitation of Sana.

II. Fill in the blanks:

1. Allaho-Akbar is to be recited.....times in the begining of Azan.
2. Allaho-Akbar means.....
3. Meaning of Ash'hadu Alla Ilaha Illallah is.....
4. Meaning of Ash'hadu Anna Muhammadar-Rasulullah is.....

5. Hayya Alas Salah means.....
6. Hayya Alal Falah means.....

III. Match the following:

S.N.	Text	S.N.	Text
1.	*Aoozu Billahi Minashshaitanir Rajeem*	1.	O Our Sustainer! All the praises are for you
2.	*Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*	2.	Allah listened to whosoever praised Him.
3.	*Subhana Rabbiyal Azeem*	3.	In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent and the Merciful.
4.	*Sami Allahu Liman Hamidah*	4.	Glory be unto my Sustainer, the Most Exalted
5.	*Rabbana Lakal Hamd*	5.	I seek protection of Allah from the accursed Shaitan.
6.	*Subhana Rabbiyal A'la*	6.	Glory be unto my Sustainer, the Majestic

Lesson 10

OUR FESTIVALS

Many happy occasions come in our life, like weddings and dinner parties of our families, neighbours and friends. People meet each other on these occasions. They dress in their best clothes for such occasions. They eat, drink and make merry together. But, only some people celebrate these happy occasions. Others have no concern with these occasions.

Allah has chosen two happy occasions in a year to indulge in pleasantries. These are celebrated not by a few people, but by all the Muslims, who live in India or Pakistan or any other country. Muslims settled in every nook and corner of different countries celebrate these two occasions, which are our two festivals known as *Eid*.

The*Eid* which comes right after the month of fasting — *Ramzan* — is known as *Eid-ul-Fitr*. The other festival is Baqra-eid — also known as *Eid-ul-Azha* — is celebrated on the tenth day of the last month of Islamic calender *Zil Hijja*.

Eid-ul-Fitr

This is our most famous festival. We celebrate it after the completion of *Ramzan* fasts. In many Muslim households, preparations for it begin much before its time. My mother gets various types of dresses stitched for me. New shoes and caps are bought. My elder sister makes handkerchiefs with flower embroidery for me. She also makes dresses for herself and sews

gold and silver laces on them. If she is not able to get us new clothes, she washes the old clothes very neatly and mends them.

The entire house is cleaned and arranged neatly. Necessary material is bought to prepare delicacies and sweets. In short, host of preparations are made for *Eid*. As the day of *Eid* draws near, our happiness grows beyond limit. We anxiously await *Eid*. On the last fasting day, we very carefully and attentively look for the moon. As soon as *Eid* moon is sighted, we are very happy and unable to contain ourselves out of joy. We greet each other and congratulate them happily. We could not sleep for a long time that night out of joy. There is great deal of hustle and bustle and merriment.

We get up early in the morning on *Eid* day. After offering Fajr Salat, we take a bath and dress up nicely in our new clothes and apply perfume. Then *Eidi* (money gifts) are given to us by our father, mother, sisters and brothers. Our father gives *Fitra* (obligatory charity) on behalf of all the members of the family. This charity is given either in the form of food grains or money; and distributed among the poor of our neighbouhood so that no one goes hungry on the day of *Eid* and all of them share the happiness of *Eid* together.

From early in the morning, mother and elder sister are busy toiling in the kitchen to prepare meals. They make delicacies and gift them to neighbours. After eating, we — grown-up men and children alike — go to the *Eidgah* happily. On the way, we recite the prescribed *Takbeer* in a low-pitched voice — *Allaho- Akbar, Allaho- Akbar, La Ilaha Illalah, Wallaho -Akbar,Allaho- Akbar, Walillahil Hamd* (Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. There is none worthy of worship, but Him. Allah is the greatest. All praise be to Allah.)

We always offer the prayer of *Eid* in *Eidgah*. Within a short time, the whole of *Eidgah* is filled up by people. Every one

is happy and dressed in his or her best clothes. It is a sight to behold. This stately gathering is very awe-inspiring to look at. When all people are gathered, straight rows are formed. Now two rakat Salat is offered behind the Imam. *Eid* prayer is different from other Salats at different points. There is no Azan called for the Salat nor is the Iqamat recited. During the first *rakat* after Sana, *Allaho- Akbar* is recited three times. During the second *rakat, Allaho- Akbar* is recited thrice before bowing for Ruku. In Juma namaz, sermon is before the prayers. But on both the *Eid* days, the sermon is delivered after the Salat. After finishing invocation, *Eid* greetings are exchanged and we congratulate each other. There is held a big fair near *Eidgah*. All sorts of toys and sweets are sold. There is also a lot of entertainment. We buy many toys and sweets out of the money collected as *Eidi*. We buy balloons and tops. Later, we return home happily from a different route.

Eid-ul-Azha (Baqra-Eid)

While *Eid-ul-Fitr* is celebrated on the first day of the month of *Shawwal*, *Eid-ul-Azha* is celebrated two months and a nine days later i.e. on the tenth day of *Zil Hijja*, the last month of Islamic calender. This is our second great festival. *Eid-ul-Fitr* is celebrated because we have completed one whole month of fasting as commanded by Allah. *Eid-ul-Azha* is celebrated to commemorate the event of Prophet Ibrahim's (A.S.)'s sacrifice of his son Prophet Ismail (A.S.) at Allah's command. Prophet Ibrahim dreamt that he was sacrificing his son Ismail at Allah's order. When he was actually doing this, Allah prevented him from doing so and asked him to sacrifice a goat instead. All Muslims perform this sacrifice in remembrance of this event and repeat their intention to sacrifice everything including their life and their beloved children's life for Allah's sake.

The same preparations and same meery -making accompany

*Eid-ul-Azha*a as for *Eid-ul-Fitr*. Rather it starts with Fajr prayers of the ninth day of Zil Hijja itself when, after the Farz prayers, prescribed *Takbeer* is recited loudly —*Allaho-Akbar,Allaho- Akbar, La Ilaha Illalah, Wallaho -Akbar,Allaho- Akbar, Walillahil Hamd.*

Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest, No one is worthy of worship, but Allah. Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest. Praise be to Allah.

This recitation of Takbeer goes on till the Asr Salat of the thirteenth of Zil Hijja. The obligatory sacrifice can be performed on any of the three days i.e., 10th, 11th or 12th of Zil Hijja.

On the morning of 10th Zil Hijja, Muslims go to *Eidgah* neatly attired, but without taking meals. As in Eid-ul-Fitr, now also two rakats of Salat is offered. But, of course, on the way to the *Eidgah*, we recite Takbeer loudly. On return from *Eidgah*, the sacrifice is performed. The people from villages, who have to go to towns or cities to offer the obligatory Eid prayers, can perform sacrifice before Salat.

Goats and sheep, besides rams and buffaloes are sacrificed. Camels are also sacrificed. Cows and bullocks too can be sacrificed. But, nowadays due to certain reasons, Government has banned sacrifice of cows and bullocks. One person can sacrifice only a single small animal. But large animals like bull, camel, buffaloes can be shared by seven persons. The animal for sacrifice should be free from any defects and of mature age. This should be ascertained before buying them. After sacrificing the animal, the skin is sold and the money is given in charity. The meat is divided into three portions. One portion is distributed among poor, one portion is gifted off, and the family consumes the third portion. Hajj is performed in Makkah at the time of *Eid-ul-Azha.*

These are our two great festivals. May Allah retain their pleasantries associated with these festivals (Aameen).

Exercise

A. Answer the following:

1. Which two famous festivals are celebrated by Muslims all over the world?
2. Why *Fitra* is distributed amongst poor on the occasion of Eid-ul Fitr?
3. Which famous incident is associated with the celebration of Eid-ul-Azha?
4. What is recommended supplication while sacrifying the animal?
5. In what ways the Eid Salats are different from regular Salats?
6. On which dates of Zil-Hijjah sacrifice can be performed?
7. In what manner, the sacrificial meat is distributed?

B. Match the following:

S.N.	Column 'A'	Column 'B'
1.	Eid-ul-Fitr	One person
2.	Eid-ul-Azha	Seven parts
3.	Hazrat Ibraheem (A.S.)	1st Shawwal
4.	Goat and Sheep	10th Zil Hijjah
5.	Large Animals	Hazrat Ismaeel (A.S.)

C. Fill in the blanks:

1. .....is celebrated on the completion of the fasting month of Ramzan.
2. The prescribed Takbeer starts after the Fajr Salat of .....9th of Zil Hijja and continues till .....of Zil Hijja.

3. On the morning of .....people go to Eidgah without taking meals.

4. We perform our Eid SAlats in.....

5. On the way to Eidgah,.....is recited.

6.Hajj is performed in.....at the time of Eid-ul-Azha.

Lesson 11

ETIQUETTE

We roam about, do various works, go to Mosque, school, parties, meetings and playgrounds. We eat with some persons, we play with some and study with certain persons and be friendly with some. During all these activities, we mingle with other persons. Every place demands specific manners and etiquette. For every work, there is a definite procedure. By practicing these etiquette, it will not only be convenient to all, but will also help avoid the vengeance. Well-behaved and cultured children keep in mind etiquette and good manners so that they are liked by one and all. The children who do not observe these etiquette, are disliked and hated by every body, are termed as bad cultured and arrogant.

Etiquette of Mosque

A Mosque is Allah's Court so we should be very careful with our manners and behaviour while in a Mosque.

1. We enter the Mosque by putting our right step first ; and come out of it by putting our left step first.On both the occasions, we say Salam .
2. On entering the mosque we say,

   اللّٰهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِيْ اَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ

   "Allahummaftahli Abwaba Rahmathika".

   O Allah! Open the gates of Your mercy for me.
3. On coming out of the Mosque we say,

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّی اَسْئَلُکَ مِنْ فَضْلِکَ

"Allahuma Inni Asaluka Min Fazlika".

O Allah! I seek your favour and blessings.

4. We do not make any noise or laugh while we are in the Mosque. We neither joke with each other nor talk about worldly affairs in the Mosque. We focus our total attention towards Allah only.
5. After ablution, we sit down quietly on one side and if time permits perform two rakats of sunnah Salat.
6. We keep the Mosque clean and tidy; and do not allow filth or dirt to be accumulated in it. If perfume is available, we apply it. We avoid eating things like garlic or onion — which produce a bad smell — before going to the mosque. If we have eaten them, we clean our mouth before entering the Mosque..

Etiquette of Classroom

1. We enter the classroom saying salam to every body present therein and leave it only after doing the same.
2. If we have to sit on the floor, we remove our shoes and keep them in order.
3. We sit quietly in the classroom and listen very attentively to our teachers.
4. We wait for our turn to speak or ask questions.
5. We take the permission of our teachers to go out of the classroom either in any contingency. If the teacher is not there, we take the permission of the class monitor.
6. When we have to go to another classroom on some purpose, we enter the class only after seeking permission to do so.
7. We keep the classroom clean and tidy and arrange everything in order. All the bits of paper and litter are put into waste paper basket. When it is our turn to keep the classroom clean, we sweep it very neatly and arrange it very well.

Etiquette of Drinking and Eating

1. We wash our hands and mouth thoroughly before sitting down for meals.
2. We start eating only after saying:

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

"Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem".

(In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent and the Merciful).

3. If others are sharing our plate, then we eat out of the portion in front of us. We neither choose the best pieces nor flash our hands over other portions.
4. We take small morsels and swallow after chewing them well. We do not chew the food loudly making noise.
5. We take care not to drop the food.
6. We do not eat very hot food and neither blow on it to cool it.
7. We do not find faults with the food. We relish whatever food is offered to us — tasteful or tasteless. If we do not like the food, we don't eat it, but never find faults with it.
8. We do not eat while standing or lying down. Neither do we eat while leaning against anything.
9. While drinking, we hold the glass of water with one hand and support it with other, and drink it little by little in three breaths. Everytime the glass is removed away from the mouth, we breathe. After drinking we say:

اَلْحَمْدُلِلّٰه

Alhamdulillah.

("Praise be to Allah").

10. After eating and drinking, we wash our hand and mouth cleanly and thank Allah by invocating thus:

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ الَّذِیْ اَطْعَمَنَا وَسَقَانَا وَجَعَلَنَا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِیْنَ۔

"Alhamdulillahillazi At'amana Wa Saqana Wa Ja'alna Minal Muslimeen"

(Praise be to Allah, who fed us and gave us to drink and made us Muslims).

Etiquette of Conversation

1. While speaking, our voice should neither be very high-pitched nor very low. It should just moderate enough to be heard easily.
2. We should not interrupt others' talk, When two people are in conversation, we do not interfere and wait for an opportunity or our turn to speak.
3. We listen very attentively when someone is talking and are not indifferent or heedless.
4. We never speak unnecessarily nor utter rough talk. Neither do we talk much or fast.
5. We converse politely with everybody, much so with elders. We respectfully address them.
6. We answer our elders with much courtesy and do not indulge in childish behaviour like smiling for nothing, scratching or putting our fingers in the nose while talking to them.
7. We do not eavesdrop when two persons are talking about their personal affairs and neither do we go and stand near them.

Etiquette of Meeting or Congregation

1. We sit wherever we get a place and do not jump rows to move ahead.
2. We do not attend meetings if we have eaten onions or garlic as they give out a bad smell. We also do not carry things, which let out a bad odour. Our clothes are clean and we apply perfume if available.
3. We sit politely and quietly. We do not converse or make noise.

4. We listen and see with attention whatever is going on in a meeting or in a congregation.
5. We do not whisper among ourselves nor taunt or pass witty remarks on others.
6. We sit, leaving space for people to move about; and when people are sitting in a circle, we do not push ourselves in it.
7. We do not ask people to vacate their seats for us nor do we try to occupy the seat of distinction.
8. We do not stand or walk around in a meeting. We sit calmly at one place and do not strain our necks to look around.

By following these etiquette, we make our life comfortable and we are regarded as refined and cultured children. This is the reason for which Islam stresses so much upon etiquette.

Exercise

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Whose permission should be sought while intending to go out of the class for any contingency?
2. What do you do to keep your classroom clean and tidy?
3. What are the ettiquettes of drinking water?
4. How should you speak with elders?
5. How do you sit in a meeting?
6. What should be avoided while eating?

B. Some good and bad manners are given below. Write 'G' or 'B' against each of them appropreately:

1. Do not make noise in Masjid.
2. If you have to sit on floor, remove your shoes and keep them in order.
3. Do not wait for your turn to talk.
4. Start eating with Bismillah and eat from the portion in front

of you.

5. Do not interrupt when two people are talking.

6. In a meeting, we do not sit where we get a place but walk ahead jumping the rows.

C. Match the following:

	A		B
1.	Ettiquette of Mosque	a.	do not indulge in childish behaviour while answering a question
2.	Ettiquette of eating	b.	sit leaving space for people moving about
3.	Ettiquette of conversation	c.	do not make noise while chewing the food
4.	Ettiquette of a meeting or congregation	d.	if time permits, perform two raka'ts of Sunnah

D. Fill in the blanks:

1. Every place and occasion demands specific manners & ettiquettes. By observing them, we make life.....for all.

2. We enter the Mosque by putting our .....step first and then saying Salam.

3. We do not enter the Mosque after eating things like.....which produce bad smell.

4. While entering another classroom, we seek.....

5. We do not.....with one another in a congregation.

Lesson 12

OTHERS RIGHTS ON US

Thanks to Allah, now I am ten years old. But, I have not grown up on my own. Many other people have contributed in bringing me up. They have lent a helping hand to make me what I am today. I cannot remember each and everyone who have helped me become what I am today. When I think of all the good things they have done, my respect for them increases. Sentiments of love and care grow and I pray Allah for them.

Someone gave us birth, someone showed us the right path, someone has cherished us lovingly, and somebody has spent their hard-earned money on us. We have played with some and have been entertained by some when we felt disappointed. In short, many people have done us favours and have been kind to us in various ways. All of them have a right on us. We are not ungrateful to forget their kindness and favours.

Allah's right

There are innumerable rights of Allah on us. Allah created us. Adorned us with good looks and provided us with all the necessities. He granted knowledge; gave us wisdom and appointed us as His vicegerents on earth. We human beings are the most distinguished creation of Allah, unlike the animals and others. He also showed us the right way of life by bringing us into being in a Muslim family. His innumerable favours and blessings weigh us down.

Our duties towards Allah are:

1. To firmly believe only Him to be Creator,Sustainer, Provider and Master.
2. To accept His monarchy and rule.
3. Not to associate others in any of His characteristics,deeds, power or merits.
4. To thank Him for His blessings, we should regularly offer prayers and praise Him. To believe Him as our God, to bow before Him and to consider only Him to be worthy of worship and not to pray anyone else in any form whatsoever.
5. To love Him more than anything or anybody else. Do everything to please Him. Avoid His displeasure. If we commit mistakes, we should beseech only for His pardon and repent for it.
6. Our friendship, enemity, favours and behaviour with others should be only for Allah's sake and not for other purposes.

Our duties towards Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

After Allah's right on us, comes the rights of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) on us. He is the one who explained to us what Allah wants us to do. He practised Allah's commands, brought the Qur'an and benefited us by Islam's riches. He showed us the true and right way of life. He suffered many hardships for our welfare. If it were not for him, we would have gone astray and would not have found the right path. We would have troubled others and harmed our Aakhirah. We would have suffered in this world and punished severely in the Hereafter. Because of his teachings, we have been saved from losing the right way. No amount of our gratitude is enough for our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Beloved Prophet's rights on us

1. To respect and honour him truly and say Darood and Salam for him.

اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ وَّعَلٰى اٰلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلٰى اِبْرَاهِيْمَ وَعَلٰى اٰلِ اِبْرَاهِيْمَ اِنَّكَ حَمِيْدٌ مَّجِيْدٌ۔

Allahumma salli ala Muhmmadinwwa ala ali Muhammadin, kama sallaita ala Ibraheema, wa ala ale Ibraheema innaka hameedum majeed.

(O Allah! Bless Muhammad (pbuh) and the offspring of Muhammad (pbuh) as You blessed Ibrahim (A.S.)and the offspring of Ibrahim (A.S.).Verily You are worthy of praise and are the most Exalted.

2. To follow his teachings, to accept his words and make him our ideal.
3. To love him more than our own self and our parents. To regard his friends as our friends and to consider his enemies as our enemies.
4. To love his companions (may Allah be pleased with them all) too.

Parents' rights on us

After Allah and His messengers' rights come the rights of our parents on us. We are very grateful to both of them. Our mother carried us for nine months in her womb and bore much pain while giving birth to us. We were helpless; our parents grew us with great love. Our mother did not mind losing her sleep and daily comforts for us. We were ignorant of everything. She lovingly taught us everything. She carried us around for months for this purpose. She brought us up by feeding her milk. Even our ordinary illness made her worried and restless. Such love is not to be seen elsewhere.

We are also very much grateful to our father. He is equally involved in bringing us up. He spent his hard-earned money on us. He provided us good food, good clothing; brought for us fruits, sweets and toys. He advised us for our benefits. He taught us lovingly and was always worried about our eminence in both the worlds. Every father always wants his children to exceed him in virtues.

Our duties towards parents are:

1. We should respect them deeply. Treat them with love and care.
2. Never hurt them by any of our speech and deeds.
3. To obey them gladly and serve them in all possible manners.
4. To invoke Allah's blessings on them by reciting:

رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيٰنِي صَغِيرًا ۝

"Rabbirham Huma Kama Rabbayani Saghira"

(My Lord bestow on them Your mercy, as they cherished me in childhood).

Teachers' rights on us

Our teacher is our spiritual father. His status is like that of our father. We were illiterate. He taught us to read and write with much effort. He explained to us Allah's and His messengers' sayings. He trained us methodically. If he had not put his best efforts, we would have remained uneducated and would not have known anything about this world and the Hereafter.

Our duties towards our teachers

1. To respect them whole heartedly.
2. To address them with courtesy and treat them with love and care.
3. Obey them gladly.

4. We are not supposed to go against his teachings and advices.
5. We are to serve them in every possible manner.

Rights of siblings on us

Even our sisters and brothers have rights on us. We grow up with them in the same family. We eat and play together. Elder brothers and sisters bring us up, they share their meals with us, include us in their play and protect us. They lovingly advise us. The lovely faces and sweet talks of younger sisters and brothers amuses us. We enjoy their childish behaviour. They have all earned a place in our hearts. Elder brother's status is like father and elder sister is like mother. So both have the same right as that of our parents. The rights of younger siblings on us are that we treat them with love and forgive their mistakes. If any harm or damage is done due to their ignorance, they should be admonished with love instead of beating them. We should share our meals, snacks, clothing and toys with them.

Exercise

I. Answer the following questions:

1. What are Allah's favours and blessings on us?
2. What are the rights of Allah on us?
3. What are our duties towards Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)?
4. Illustrate the parents' rights on us?
5. Why teacher's status is like a father and what are our duties towards our teacher?
6. How should you behave with your elder and younger brothers & sisters?

II. Some rights are given below. Write the name to whom each one of them belong:

1. Love Him the most and do every thing which pleases Him ( )
2. Obey them gladly and serve them in all possible manner ( )
3. Follow his teachings, accept his words and make him your ideal ( )
4. Treat them with love and care and do not go against their teachings & advices ( )
5. Share your meals, clothes, toys etc with them ( )

Lesson 13

BELOVED PROPHET (PBUH) AS A PERSON

The leader of the whole world, our beloved prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (pbuh) was the best of all human beings. He was a paragon of virtues. He possessed all the virtues of the world which can be thought of a human being. He was uniquely extraordinary and the most blessed personality. It is beyond our capacity to enlist his merits. Allah himself praised him.

Someone asked his beloved wife Hazrat Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) — "What type of a person he was?" She replied: "He was a true model of the Qur'an". He possessed all the virtues described in the Qur'an. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) always remained extremely clean. He hated filth. He described cleanliness as half of Faith. He always wore clean clothes, used *miswak* to clean his teeth, combed his hair and used perfume and also applied collorium (*Surma)* to his eyes.

He ate his food with pleasure, he never found fault with the food and ate from the front portion of the plate, he did not choose among the food. He did not lean while eating. He never ate more than his hunger and did not sleep soon after eating. He never ate anything on a full stomach and also forbade others from doing so. He said that stomach is the root of all diseases.

He was self reliant. He was not dependant on anyone. He also helped others in their personal requirements. He provided fodder to animals, looked after them and milked them. He himself swept, washed clothes and kneaded flour. He went to

market to purchase goods and carried the same himself. He would repair his shoes and mend his house himself. He was never idle. He was always busy and never troubled others asking them to do his personal work.

He always wore simple clothes, never wore gorgeous dresses, he forbade men from wearing silk and gold. His dresses were made of coarse cloth. He slept on an ordinary bed and never liked the houses to be adorned lavishly.

He respected his elders very much. Once when his foster mother Haleemah Sa'diyah (may Allah be pleased with her) visited him, he spread his sheet for her to sit on and extended great hospitality to her. When his foster father visited him, he spread a portion of the sheet for him to sit. Then came the foster mother and he spread another portion. Lastly, when his foster brother came, he made him sit in front of himself.

He loved children very much. When they saw him in their streets and lanes, they used to jump with joy and rushed to him. The beloved Prophet (pbuh) used to greet them, lifted them, kissed them and blessed them. He never struck a child and forbade beating of children.

Now who will not consider such a beloved prophet more than his or her own parents. We also consider him to be the dearest one in the whole world to us. Whenever we listen to his sayings, we immediately obey it. Whenever his name is mentioned, we recite Darood and Salam for him:

اللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ علیٰ مُحَمَّدٍوَّعَلٰی اٰلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَّ بَارِکْ وَسَلِّمْ

"Allahumma-Salli-Ala-Muhammadinw-Wa ala Aali-Muhammadinw-Wa-Barik-Wa-Sallim"

[Oh Allah, My Lord! Bless Muhammad(pbuh) and his offspring and bestow your favours and peace on all of them].

Exercise

I. Answer the following questions:

1. How did *Ummul Momineen* Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) describe Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)'s personality?
2. How did he maitain cleanliness?
3. How did he eat?
4. How did he behave with elders?
5. Which work he used to do himself?
6. How was his behaviour with children?
7. How did Prophet Muhammad receive his foster mother when she visited him?
8. What do we recite when Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)'s name is mentioned?

II. Fill in the blanks:

1. He hated.....
2. He described .....as half of the faith.
3. He said that stomach is the root of all.....
4. He never troubled others for doing his .....
5. He always wore .....clothes.
6. He .....beating of children.

Lesson 14

LOVELY SAYINGS OF THE BELOVED PROPHET (PBUH)

I like the pleasant Sayings of our beloved Prophet (pbuh) very much. I listen and read them very carefully. I try hard to remember and follow them. Listen to some of the Sayings:

1. Children are flowers of Heaven.
2. That home is not blessed, which has no children.
3. To acquire knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim (man and woman).
4. Knowledge should be acquired from the lap of the mother to the lap of grave.
5. Respect those, who impart knowledge.
6. One who has knowledge is the wealthiest of the wealthy and one who is ignorant is the poorest of the poor.
7. Those who do not respect elders and love young ones are not among us.
8. Heaven lies under the feet of mothers.
9. Allah's pleasure lies in father's pleasure and Allah's displeasure lies in father's displeasure.
10. To abuse one's own parents and reproach them is a very great sin. It is also very bad to abuse or reproach other's parents as that person will repay by abusing or reproaching your parents.
11. Elder brother's status is that of father.
12. Start eating by saying *Bismillah*. If you have forgotten in the beginning, say it as soon as you remember.

13. To eat in the market is stupidity.
14. Do not eat in front of a patient.
15. Choose for others what you like for yourself.
16. It is better to be alone rather than in bad company.
17. Greet people by saying Salam. It increases affection.
18. Young ones should greet by saying Salam to elders. One who is walking should greet the one who is sitting by saying Salam. A small group should greet a larger group by saying Salam.
19. One who takes back after giving is like a dog, which licks its vomit.
20. Lying makes a person's face dark.
21. Tell the truth even if it harms you.
22. Do not laugh at others' misfortune. It may befall on you, too.
23. Curse on him, who directs a blind man towards a wrong path.
24. A backbiter can never enter the Heaven.
25. On the Day of Judgment, a sparrow will complain against him, who killed it playfully.
26. Offer Salat at the prescribed time.
27. The rows should be straight during Salat.
28. One should not look about with furtive glances during Salat.
29. During bowing (ruku) and prostration (sajda), if the head is lifted before the Imam lifts his head, Allah may change that head to that of a donkey.
30. Say that you have accepted the Faith and be firm on it.
31. I am the last Prophet. No Prophet will be born after me.

Our beloved Prophet (pbuh) also said:

"My Lord gave me nine commandments. They are:

1. To fear Allah in all situations, openly or secretly.

2. To do justice whether it pleases or displeases any body.
3 Not to exceed the limits (set by Allah), whether in poverty or prosperity.
4. To maintain relations with people even if they severe ties with me.
5. To give even to him who does not give me.
6. To forgive even the one who oppresses me.
7. To contemplate when I sit idle.
8. To speak about Allah whenever I speak.
9. To learn lessons out of things, which I see and generally order for good.

It is evident that to convey these commandments to us means that we should also obey them and convey them to others.

Exercise

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Why the sayings of our beloved Prophet are to be read, listened carefully?
2. Why abusing others parents is just like abusing our own parents?
3. What are the benefits and ettiquetes of Salam?
4. Why the killing of a sparrow is prohibited?
5. Why did the Prophet (pbuh) prohibit from laughing at others misfortune?

B. Write true or false:

1. Heaven lies under the feet of the mother. ( )
2. Children are the floweres of the house. ( )
3. Curse on him who directs a blind man towards wrong path. ( )

4. The rows should be straight in congregatory Salat. ( )
5. I will cut off relations with those who cut relations with me. ( )

C. Fill in the blanks:

1. To acquire knowledge is .....on every Muslim.
2. Respect those who impart.....
3. Do not eat in front of a .....
4. I forgive even the one who .....me.
5. I shall learn.....out of things which I see.

Lesson 15

SUFFERINGS OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) AND HIS COMPANIONS (RTA)

Islam is the only true way of life. Everyone's salvation lies in adopting it. All the goodness of both the worlds can be achieved only by following Islam. Those who move away from Islam are not only missing the right path, but misleading others also. They spoil their world and make everybody miserable by causing mischief and disturbance everywhere. Not only their worldly life is destroyed, their life in the Hereafter would hold painful torment and punishment for them.

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was appointed by Allah to save people from the damage and destruction and the painful punishment in the Hereafter. He showed people the true way of Islam. Virtuous people accepted him, and became his supporters. Bad people were not inclined to shed their vices. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) wanted their welfare. These people on the contrary became his enemies. First they threatened him, and then tempted him. When they were not successful, they began harassing him in various ways. They taunted him, abused him, and pelted stones on him. They put thorns on his path, threw garbage and filth on him. He bore all this torture patiently. He tried for their welfare continuously and prayed Allah for their correct guidance. But, the harassment of those cruel people kept on increasing. They expelled the whole family of the Prophet from the fraternity and stopped provision of food. Children wailed because of hunger. They starved and had to chew leaves to live on. They faced a very hard time.

After some days, Abu Taalib, dear uncle of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), who had been backing and supporting the Prophet tirelessly, passed away. Thereafter his beloved wife Bibi Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her) also expired. These two were of great solace to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The non-believers were in awe of his uncle and wife and held them both in much regard. After their death, they troubled Prophet Muhammad to their heart's content.

Once when our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was praying in Kaaba, he was sighted by a mischievous pagan, who rolled his sheet to make a noose and put in the neck of the Prophet. When the Prophet prostrated, that man pulled the noose mercilessly. By then Hazrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him), one of Prophet's true friends, came along and objected to the non-believer's inhuman act. But, these cruel and mischief- mongers beat up Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) also.

There was a leader of non-believers by the name of Abu Jahal. He too was a mortal enemy of the Prophet. Once when the Prophet was praying, this wicked man Abu Jahal had camel's guts dumped on him. When Bibi Fatima (may Allah be pleased with her), the beloved daughter of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) heard this, she came running, removed the dirty guts, cleaned the filth and admonished those wicked persons.

There is a city named Ta'if at some distance from Makkah. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) went there to preach Islam. But, the people of Taif were also very wicked. They did not adopt Islam's way of life; instead they tortured him by pelting stones and abusing him. The people of Taif set some naughty, ignorant children upon him to harass him. He was bloodstained, but he was patient. Instead of cursing them, he prayed for their guidance.

Prophet's beloved companions were very pious and were

wholly committed to Islam. They also preached Islam to save people from ruin and asked them to follow it. But the wicked people harassed even them. Hazrat Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) was one of the companions. He was a slave of a non-believer. When this wicked man heard that Hazrat Bilal had become a Muslim, he started troubling Bilal, starved him for many days, thrashed him, made him lie down on hot sand and kept hot slabs of stone on his chest. He used to put a rope in Hazrat Bilal's neck and give it to naughty children to drag him on stones. Hazrat Bilal suffered this entire trauma for the sake of Allah patiently. May Allah be pleased with him (Aameen).

Hazrat Khabbab (may Allah be pleased with him) was another companion of the beloved Prophet. When he became a Muslim, the non-believers harassed him also. One day these wicked persons burnt coals, spread them on ground and laid Hazrat Khabbab (may Allah be pleased with him) on his back on these hot and simmering coals. They put their feet on his chest so he could not turn sideways. His whole back was burnt.

There was one more beloved companion of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) by the name of Hazrat Yaser (may Allah be pleased with him). Abu Jahal harassed Hazrat Yaser's family. He tormented HazratYaser's children to the utmost level. That wicked man even martyred Hazrat Yaser's wife with a spear.

Our other elders too had to suffer various sorts of miseries for the sake of Islam, the true way of life. But, these people took a firm stand and continued with their preaching, and guiding others on the true and correct path. They continued with their efforts to set right their own lives as well as others' lives in both the worlds, in spite of the utmost sufferings.

Now it is our turn. We too may have to face all miseries for the sake of true way of life and in our efforts to guide people to the true and straight path of Islam. May Allah help us (Aameen).

Exercise

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did Allah send our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)?
2. How did the wicked people harass our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)?
3. Why did the non-believers increased harassment to our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) after the deaths of Abu Talib and Bibi Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her)?
4. What did our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) do when the people of Ta'if tortured him severly?
5. What was the effect non-believers' harassment on our elders?

B. What do you know about the following companions of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)?

1. Hazrat Bilal (RTA) 2. Hazrat Khabbab (RTA)
3. Hazrat Yaser (RTA)

C. Match the following:

Column 'A'	Column 'B'
1. Camel's gut	(a) Hazrat Khabbab (RTA)
2. Made him lie down on hot sand	(b) Wife of Hazrat Yaser (RTA)
3. Laid on burning coal	(c) Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)?
4. Martyred	(d) Hazrat Bilal (RTA)
5. Was beaten	(e) Hazrat Abu Bakr (RTA)

D. Fill in the blanks:

1. Every ones'.....in adopting Islam.
2. Bad people were not .....to shed their vices.
3. .....was a mortal enemy of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
4. Pagans expelled the whole family of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) from the fraternity and stopped provision of .....

Lesson 16

OUR TRUE CALIPHS

Allah has made everything. He created everybody. He fulfils everyone's needs. Our earth is a very small portion of His empire. We are all vicegerents of Allah on earth. A deputy or monitor is called caliph. Our teacher is the real in-charge of our class. But, he appoints monitors to perform certain duties. Likewise, Allah is the real ruler. His kingdom is very vast, so vast that one cannot even imagine it. Of this vast empire, earth is a small portion and He has appointed us — man — as his vicegerent. Some responsibilities of organising this world are given to us. Our duty is to carry out Allah's wish and will on this earth.

Allah's deputies or caliphs are all human beings. To organise a country's rule, people have to make someone or the other their leader. For this, Muslims select a leader who is called Caliph. A Caliph organises the worldly affairs according to Allah's commands; and makes everybody obey Allah's rules and regulations. After our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), these great men who properly organised worldly life adhering to Allah's will are known as *Khulafa-i-Rashideen* or True Caliphs. Hazrat Abu Bakr, Hazrat Umar, Hazrat Usman and Hazrat Ali (May Allah be pleased with them all) are four famous Caliphs. They were also the most beloved companions of our beloved Prophet. They were very pious, utmost faithful and loyal to the cause of Faith —Islam. They discharged their duties in an excellent manner. They organised the

affairs of the Muslim state very well and tried to spread the true way of life according to Allah's wishes all over the world.

1. Hazrat Abu Bakr (RTA)

After Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Hazrat Abu Bakr (May Allah be pleased with him)became the first caliph. His beloved daughter Hazrat Ayesha (May Allah be pleased with her) was married to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). AbuBakr (May Allah be pleased with him) was Prophet's true friend. Abu Bakr (May Allah be pleased with him) loved the Prophet more than his parents. He readily accepted as truth whatever uttered by the Prophet.So he was also known as Hazrat Siddique. He was a caliph for only two years and two or three months. But, his works are such that they will be remembered forever. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) appointed him in his place to lead the prayers during illness. The Prophet often said that Faith of all Muslims of the world is to be weighed, then the scale of Abu Bakr's faith will be heavier. While describing Abu Bakr's merits, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said his merits are as much as stars in the sky. Hazrat Abu Bakr gave his all for the sake of true way of life. He did whatever he could to please Allah and his messenger. That is why his name is first among all the great men, after the Prophet. We will always have great respect for him. May Allah be pleased with him(Aameen).

2. Hazrat Umar (RTA)

Hazrat Umar (May Allah be pleased with him) was our second caliph after Hazrat Abu Bakr (May Allah be pleased with him). His caliphate was for approximately ten years. His period of caliphate goes down in the history of the world as model period. Even great leaders of the world have praised his rule and advised their men to immitate him. Hazrat Umar (May Allah be

pleased with him) was also Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) true friend. Hazrat Umar's daughter Hazrat Hafsa (May Allah be pleased with her) was married to the Prophet. Hazrat Umar put forth his best efforts to propagate virtues and eliminate vices. He had many good qualities. He lived a very simple life. He was very much concerned about his duties and responsibilities. Others' distress and pain made him restless. He hated evil with much intensity. This made the Prophet say that "Even Shaitan runs away from the mere shadow of Umar". One non-believer slave martyred Hazrat Umar while he was praying. *"Innalillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajioon"* — To Allah we belong and unto Him we return.

3. Hazrat Usman (RTA)

Hazrat Usman (May Allah be pleased with him) was selected caliph after Hazrat Umar's martyrdom (May Allah be pleased with him). He too was one of Prophet's dear friends. Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) daughter Hazrat Ruquiya (May Allah be pleased with her) was married to Hazrat Usman. After Hazrat Ruquiya's demise, the Prophet got his second daughter Hazrat Umme Kulsum (May Allah be pleased with her) married to Hazrat Usman. That is the reason he is called *"Zun Noorain"*, which means owner of two lights. Hazrat Usman worked very hard to propagate the Qur'an. He was famous for his modesty and chastity. Even our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) praised his modesty and chastity. He was caliph for full twelve years. He was very fond of reciting the Qur'an. He was martyred by some rebels while he was reciting the Qur'an. *"Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Rajioon"* — To Allah we belong and unto Him we return.

4. Hazrat Ali (RTA)

After Hazrat Usman's martyrdom (May Allah be pleased

with him), Hazrat Ali became the caliph. Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) favourite daughter Bibi Fatima (May Allah be pleased with her) was married to Hazrat Ali (May Allah be pleased with him). Hazrat Hasan and Hazrat Hussain (May Allah be pleased with both of them)are Hazrat Ali's sons. Hazrat Ali's courage, simplicity and obstinence are well-known. During the period of his caliphate, disputes erupted. But, he adhered to what was right. While going for prayers he was also martyred by a wretched man, *Innalillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajioon* (To Allah we belong and unto Him we return).

All these four caliphs were Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) trusted companions and true friends. Because of their virtues, Allah gave them the good news of attaining Heaven during their lifetime itself. The total rule of these four caliphs was for about thirty years. These great men organised the worldly affairs so excellently that people even today long for that period anxiously. Let Allah bring that time soon when everything in the world will be according to Allah's wish and everyone is fortunate enough to have peace and tranquility (Aameen)

Exercise

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Whom do we calls *Khulafa-i-Rashideen* or true Caliphs?
2. What is the meaning of Caliph *(Khaleefah)*?
3. Why Hazrat Abu Bakr (May Allah be pleased with him) is called *Siddique?*
4. Why leaders of the world praise Hazrat Umar's rule (May Allah be pleased with him)?
5. Why Hazrat Usman (May Allah be pleased with him) is called *"Zun Noorain"?*

6. Why do people today eagerly long for the coming back of the Caliphite period?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. WE are Allah's .....on earth.
2. Our duty is to carry out Allah's .....and.....
3. If the Eimaan of all MUslims of the world is to be weighed, then the scale of ..... Eimaan will be heavier.
4. The period of the *Khulafa-i-Rashideen* or the true Caliphs was for about .....years.

C. Fill in the blanks:

1. .....'s merits are as much as stars in the sky.
2. Even Shaitan runs away from the mere shadow of.....
3. .....'s courage, simplicity and obstinance is well known.
4. .....was very modest.

Lesson 17

OTHER PROPHETS

Allah has sent many Prophets and Messengers. They came to every country and nation. The last to arrive was our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Now no other prophet will ever come. Only Allah has the complete knowledge of the number of Prophets and Messengers, he sent before our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). We know very little of their names, where and for the benefit of which people they were sent. Of the Prophets and Messengers who are mentioned in the Qur'an, we have read about Prophet Adam, Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Noah in the earlier book of the series. Now we will read about three more famous Prophets and Messengers in this book. They are Prophet Yousuf, Prophet Musa and Prophet Isa (Jesus) (Peace be on all of them).

HAZRAT YOUSUF (A.S.) *(May Allah bless him)*

Hazrat Yousuf's Family

Prophet Ibrahim had two sons — Hazrat Ismaeel (A.S.) and Hazrat Is'haq (A.S.) are also Allah's true Prophets. Hazrat Is'haq had a son by name of Hazrat Yaqoob. He was also a Prophet and his other name was Israeel. Allah gave him twelve sons. Of them, the two youngest were from one mother. They were Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.), a Prophet himself and his younger brother Bin Yameen. The remaining ten were from other mother.

Childhood

Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) was the most pious, talented and budding among his all brothers. He was his father's favourite too. During his childhood he had a strange dream, wherein he saw sun, moon and eleven stars prostrating before him. He narrated this to his father Hazrat Yaqoob (A.S.), who knew that Allah will be gracing his son with a lofty status. Sun and moon were parents of Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) and the eleven stars were his eleven brothers. Hazrat Yaqoob (A.S.) advised Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) not to reveal his dream to his eleven brothers.

Brothers' Mischief

Step brothers of Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) were very wicked and very jealous of him.One day they hatched a plan to kill him and separate him from his father.They took Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) out on the pretext of a picnic and forcibly pushed him into a dry well. In the evening, they returned home wailing and lied to their father that while they were busy in their running race with Yousuf being left alone to guard their belongings, a wolf came along and devoured him, tearing him to pieces.Father knew their trick,but endured it with trust in Allah.

Hazrat Yousuf in Egypt

While Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) was in the well, a caravan passed by. Seeing the well, the caravan stopped near it. A man came to the well to fetch water.Instead of water, he got Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.). He was very happy and pulled Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) out of the well and the caravan people took him to Egypt.The Governor of Egypt *(Azeez-e-Misr)*saw him and bought him, thinking him to be a virtous boy.

In the Prison

Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) lived with the Governor *(Azeez-e-Misr)* in

his house. At that period, Egyptians had given up Allah's worship and were instead worshipping many idols and deities. They were full of vices and evil. They considered their king to be the incarnation of sun and worshipped him. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) was brought up amidst such people, but he never adopted such vices.The Governor's wife was not a good woman. She tried to persuade Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) for bad deeds. When he showed no inclination for the shameful act, she was furious and managed the impriosonment for Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) unjustly.

After some period of time, two more prisoners came into the prison. The people of the prison were happy with Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.)'s virtues and pious behaviour. One day, those two prisoners came to Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) and asked him about their dreams and its interpretation. One said: "I dreamt that I am making wine". The other prisoner said: "I dreamt that there were loaves of bread on my head and birds were picking them and eating it".

Seizing the Opportunity

Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) first explained to them the fundamentals of Faith and then asked them to worship only Allah and give up idol- worship. He said: "Oh companions of prison, think which is right: many gods or a Single One, who dominates everything? Those deities whom you are worshipping are nothing but names, which you and your forefathers have devised. They are not real. Allah has not certified their existence. Only Allah has the right to rule the universe. It is His command that nobody else but He should be worshipped. This is the only straight path, but usually people do not know this. Oh companions of prison! The meaning of your dream is that one of you will serve wine to his king; and the other will be hanged to death and birds will devour over his head". Eventually, the same thing happened as predicted by Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.). One prisoner was released and

became the king's servant; and the other was hanged.

King's Dream

One day the king dreamt that seven lean cows are eating up seven fat cows, and seven branches of grain are green and seven other branches are dried up. He asked people to explain these dreams, but nobody could do it. Ultimately, when Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) was asked, he replied that there will be bumper crops for seven consecutive years, and it will be followed by a severe famine for seven years. He also explained to them a plan to survive the famine. The king was very pleased to meet him. He entrusted all the duties of the kingdom to Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.), who organised everything very well and saved much of crops, which were utilised during the famine period. He even helped the neighbouring countries by lending them grains.

Arrival of Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.)'s Brothers in Egypt

There was famine even in the native country of Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.). His brothers came to Egypt to buy grains. They came to Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.), but could not recognize him. But Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) recognised his brothers. He gave them a full measure of grains and did not take its price. He asked them to bring their younger brother next time, otherwise they will not get the grains. After much pleading with their father, they brought the youngest brother along with them the next time. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) was very happy to see his younger brother. He called him aside and disclosed his identity and hatched a plan to detain him. When the brothers were returning, Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) hid his goblet among their goods. After sometime the goblet was searched. The king's servants suspected the brothers and when their goods were searched the goblet was found in the baggage of the real brother of Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.).

His brothers were accused of theft. One brother among them was very much anguished about all this and he refused to return home. Other brothers went back home and narrated to their father the whole incident. Father never believed the theft and lamented the incident.

Whole Family in Egypt

For the third time, Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.)'s brothers came to Egypt again with the insignificant money and related their tale of woes to Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.)and begged for grains. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) was much moved by their helplessness and on the verge of breaking down, he revealed himself. His brothers were much ashamed of themselves. They repented for their deeds. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) forgave them and summoned the whole family to Egypt. When all the members of the family reached Egypt, Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) made his parents sit beside him on the throne. Suddenly everyone prostrated before him. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) said: "Father this is the meaning of my dream, which I dreamt long back. My Lord, indeed, made this true. It is because of His kindness and generosity that I was released from prison and I met all of you". They all lived happily in Egypt.

From this story, we learn many things:

1. At times, Allah creates good out of evil. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.)'s brothers dumped him into a well out of jealousy. But this wickedness paved the way for Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) to reach Egypt and rule it.
2. It is always better to forgive than take revenge. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) pardoned his brothers though they did all they could to harm him.
3. One should preach Allah's Deen in all situations and in all places. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) was made a prisoner but instead

of idling his time there he conveyed Allah's message to other prisoners.

4. One should not change his right conduct even while living among evil people and neither adopt their wicked ways of life. On the contrary, one should try to set them right. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) was brought up by Allah's rebels and wicked people, but this had no ill effect on him. Instead, he tried to reform them.

Exercise

A. Answer the following:

1. What do you know about the family of Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.)?
2. What kind of dream did Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) see in his childhood?
3. What mischief was played by Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.)'s brothers with him?
4. How did Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) seized the opportunity to convey Allah's message to the two inmates of the prison before interpretating their dreams?
5. How did Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) interpreted the dreams of his two fellow inmates of the prison?
6. Why did the Egyptian king entrusted all important functions of the Government to Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.)?
7. How did the childhood dream of Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) come true?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.)'s father name was .....
2. Hazrat Yaqoob (A.S.) had .....sons.

3. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) was the most .....among all of his brothers.

4. .....had bought Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) from the people of the carvan.

5. Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) was imprisoned at the instance of ....

PROPHET MOOSA (A.S.)

(May Allah bless him)

Family

Prophet Moosa (A.S.) belonged to the family of Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.). We have already read that Hazrat Yousuf (A.S.) had brought all his family members to Egypt. These people settled in Egypt. Their progeny prospered. As these people were Hazrat Yaqoob (A.S.)'s descendents and his other name was Israel, they came to be called as Bani Israeli or Israeli. For a long time Bani Israel lived with much dignity and esteem in Egypt. But, later on they developed various vices among them. Ultimately, they fell in the eyes of Egyptians, who now treated them with contempt and harassed them. The Egyptian kings were called as Pharaohs. These pharaohs described themselves to be incarnation of the sun god and made people worship them. Some astrologer had warned the pharaoh that very soon a boy from Bani Israel will destroy his rule. Hearing this the pharaoh ordered all the boys born among Bani Israel be slaughtered. Girls were however exempted.

Childhood

During the crrency of the above order of Pharaoh, Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) was born. Consequently, his mother got very much disturbed. She was afraid that cruel men of the Govt. of Pharaoh will slaughter her infant son also. Allah consoled her. Following Allah's order, she put her baby in a box, covered it and put it in a river. Pharaoh's palace was on the banks of that river. This box floated upto the palace. Pharaoh's wife had it brought out. The baby was found in the box. She was very happy. She wanted to bring him up,

but he was not suckling any woman. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.)'s sister was present in the palace. She was there to learn about her brother's safety. She said: "I will direct you to a wet nurse, who will nourish him". So without anybody getting a clue, Hazrat Moosa (A.S.)'s mother was engaged to nourish him. Allah united son and mother again.

Youth

Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) was brought up in pharaoh's own palace. He grew up. Allah had bestowed him with a good bulky physique. One night, when everybody was sleeping, Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) saw an Egyptian thrashing one person from his own community. He tried to stop him, but the Egyptian did not stop. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) could not tolerate this cruelty. He gave a blow to the Egyptian. It so happened that this blow killed the Egyptian.

In Madien

Afraid of punishment, Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) left Egypt and wandered off to Madien, very far from Egypt. He was very tired. So he rested under a shaded spot of water. He saw people bringing their animals to the well. Two girls had been waiting aside with their animals for a long time. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) pitied them and pleaded with others to let the girls' animals have water. After this the girls happily returned home and told their father about it. Father thinking him to be a traveller called him home. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) went to their father, who received him every affectionately and inquired everything about him and consoled him. He made Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) stay in his house and got him married to one of his daughter.

Attaining of Prophethood

After eight or ten years, while he was returning to Egypt with his

wife, night fell and the route was not be seen properly. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) saw a light far away. Taking it to be a dwelling and asking his wife to stay back, Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) approached the dwelling to borrow fire and seek directions for the route. When he went near, he saw the light to be on a tree. A voice came from the tree. It was the voice of Allah. Allah made Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) a Prophet. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) asked for the signs of prophethood so that nobody should reject him. Allah said: "Put down your stick on the ground". Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) dropped his stick, it turned into a crawling snake. He was afraid. Allah said: "Do not be afraid. Catch it". Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) mustered enough courage to catch it and it was again a stick. This was one of the sign. The other sign was when he by the order of Allah took out his hand after keeping it in his armpit, it shone as bright as a moon. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) requested Allah to give prophethood to his brother Haroon also and it was granted.

In the Court of Pharoah

Now both the brothers went to the pharaoh at Allah's behest. They asked pharaoh to obey Allah and abandon cruelty. He was not prepared to obey, and asked for the signs of being a Prophet. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) showed both the signs. But, pharaoh termed it as magic. He said magicians can do this also and asked Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) to contest if he wished.

Contest with the Magicians

It was decided that the contest will be held on the festival day in the celebration ground. Many magicians and thousands of spectators gathered. The magicians juggled the ropes and threw them on the ground. They were seen as crawling snakes. Allah commanded Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) to throw his stick. He did. The stick turned into a python and it swallowed the snakes of the magicians. Now the magicians knew that it was not magic, but a sign

of Allah. All the magicians became believers of Allah and supported Hazrat Moosa (A.S.). But, pharaoh was still adamant. On the contrary, he threatened to kill the magicians. But they did not care.

Drowning of Pharoah

To teach good counsel to Pharaoh and his people, Allah caused many small and big calamities like famine, floods, swarms of locusts, rains of blood. But Pharaoh never obeyed and continued to reject Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) and oppress Bani Israel. At last on one night, Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) along with Bani Israel left Egypt under Allah's command. Pharaoh followed them with his army. On the way there was an ocean. This ocean parted to give way to Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) and his people and they crossed it. Pharaoh and his army also surged forward into the ocean, but the water closed over them; and pharaoh was drowned in the ocean along with his army. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) and his people marched forward into the valley of Seena. Here Allah bestowed upon them the shade of clouds, brought down delicious food — *Mann and Salwa*. Allah summoned Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) for forty days on Mount Toor; and granted him the Torah. While Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) was on Mount Toor, some of his people made a calf-like statue out of gold and silver and began worshipping it as Egyptians used to do. Living in the company of Egyptians, they had adopted many of their evil ways. When Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) returned, he was very angry, and made his people plead forgiveness from Allah. Then he led his people towards Syria; as this was his forefathers' native country and he wanted to occupy it. But, his people had become cowards and worthless idlers. They were not prepared to fight the enemies and refused to do so. Angered by this, Allah eventually led them astray and they wandered about aimlessly in the desert for forty years.

Meeting with a Sage

Allah commanded Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) to visit a sage. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) had taken along with him a fish to eat. He stopped at a place to rest. The fish jumped into the water. The sage was living there. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) met him and went along with him. Both of them got into a boat. The sage made a hole in the boat. Later, the sage strangled an innocent child. Next, the saint repaired a crumbling wall without asking for the wages of this work. When Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) saw all this, he could not contain himself any longer and he objected at the sage's queer behaviour. Then the sage explained that he did all this as Allah had commanded him to do so. The boat belonged to poor boatmen. The wicked king of this country snatches away all the good boats. Now the king will not take this defective boat. That child was of virtuous and pious parents. Now, they were happy with the child. But, he would have grown into a wicked person and would have troubled his parents. I strangled him now so that the parents' affection and love for him remains intact in their hearts. The wall belonged to the orphans, whose father had hid a treasure beneath it before his death. If the wall had collapsed, others would have frittered the treasure away as the children were still young. Now till the wall collapses, the children will grow up and get the treasure. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) now understood the meaning of the Saint's behaviour and was satisfied.

From this lesson we draw the following morals:

1. Allah is extraordinarily wise and no body can grasp His wisdom without His own will. That child who was to be the cause of Pharaoh's destruction was not only saved from slaughter, but was brought up in Pharaoh's own house.
2. There is no limit to Allah's munificence or what He offers

to us; and the many ways through which we are given or offered. He grants us much, and without asking. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) went in search of fire and was bestowed prophethood.

3. All the deeds of Allah are full of wisdom, but usually we cannot understand them. Those deeds, which Allah got accomplished through the saint, appeared to be indeed objectionable, but they were very wise deeds. They could be understood only when explained by the sage.
4. No threats can turn away or reverse the Faith when once it firmly takes root in one's heart. Pharaoh threatened the magicians with dire consequences, but they firmly adhered to their Eimaan.
5. People with weak faith adopt the wrong doings of outsiders. Living with Egyptians, the Bani Israel gave up the worship of Allah to idolise a calf, though they were descendents of Prophets.

Exercise

A. Answer the following:

1. Where was Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) brought up?
2. Why did Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) leave Egypt?
3. What signs of prophethood were given to Hazrat Moosa (A.S.)?
4. What did Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) tell Pharaoh in his court?
5. Why did Allah drown Pharaoh and his army?
6. Why did the people of Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) wander in the desert for forty years?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) belonged to the family of .....
2. The other name of the descendents of Hazrat Yaqoob (A.S.) is.....
3. The Egyptian kings were called by the title of .....
4. Hazrat Moosa (A.S.)'s.....was engaged to nourish him.
5. In order to escape the punishment of murder, Hazrat Moosa (A.S.) wandered off to.....far from Egypt.
6. At Hazrat Moosa (A.S.)'s request, Allah also conferred prophethood on his brother .....

PROPHET EISA (A.S.)

(May Allah bless him)

Allah has shown great mercy on Bani Israeel. He raised many Prophets among them. Prophet Eisa or Jesus Christ also belonged to these people. He was born many hundred years after Hazrat Moosa (A.S.). He was Bibi Mariam (A.S)'s son. When Bibi Mariam (A.S)'s mother was pregnant, she vowed to offer Allah her child. She thought the unborn child will be a boy. But, instead she gave birth to a girl, who was Bibi Mariam. Even then she offered her girl child to Allah. Allah accepted the offering. Mariam (A.S) was sent to a place of worship in Baitul Maqdis. There, she was looked after by Hazrat Zakariah (A.S). Whenever Hazrat Zakariah (A.S) visited Bibi Mariam (A.S) in her room he always found some eatables there. When asked, she replied that Allah had sent it.

Birth

Bibi Mariam (A.S) grew up to be a young, virtuous and chaste girl. She was always praying Allah. One day while she was praying, an angel came down at Allah's command and gave her the good news of the birth of a noble son. She was very much surprised and said: "How could it be possible? I have not been touched by any man and I am not unchaste". She was right. How can a pious and virgin girl give birth to a baby? But, Allah is omnipotent. When He created Adam (A.S) without parents, it was not difficult for Him to make a son when the mother existsted. At last under Allah's command, Bibi Mariam (A.S)

conceived and Prophet Eisa was born. It was a happy occasion. Allah had granted such a good son, who would be Allah's beloved and will show the straight path to mankind. But, Bibi Mariam was very much anguished. She knew that evil persons will not agree and slander her. Allah had sent Prophet Eisa with so many signs that even a common man could accept him to be the prophet of Allah and know that Bibi Mariam is chaste. Only a very evil and ignorant man would think otherwise.

Childhood

At last she brought the child to the city. People gathered. Evil persons began cursing her. Bibi Mariam (A.S.) kept quiet. The child spoke: "I am Allah's servant. He has made me an apostle and granted me a book. My presence is auspicious and I am ordered to offer Salat and committed to Zakat all my life. I should discharge my duties towards my mother and I am not a disobedient and wicked son". People were surprised to hear an infant's talk. Taking it to be a sign of Allah, virtuous people immediately accepted. But, evil people went on with their slandering and thus ruined both their worlds.

Hazrat Eisa (A.S.) grew up. Allah revealed the Injeel (Bible) to him. He showed the straight path to people, gave the good news about th arrival of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), objected to the vices of Bani Israeel and inspired them towards virtues. He showed them many signs of Allah. He made sparrows out of mud, blow in them and lo! They were living birds flying about on Allah's command. Allah commanded Hazrat Eisa (A.S.) to touch the eyes of a man blind by birth and by the command of Allah there was light in the blind eyes and he could see. He cured a leper of his disease. He touched a dead man and he came alive on Allah's command.. Bani Israel saw all these signs, but they were so vicious that they did not believe Hazrat Eisa (A.S.) to be the messenger of Allah and neither

did they discard their vices. On the contrary, they became his enemies. They complained to the infidel king about him, accused him unjustly, got him arrested in a false case and by mutual agreement with the authorities decided to crucify him on the cross. Hazrat Eisa (A.S.), however, was not harmed. But, these people ruined both their worlds. Eventually, Prophet Hazrat Eisa (A.S.) was summoned back by Allah and one among the enemies, resembling Hazrat Eisa (A.S.), was crucified.

Some poor fishermen had heard Hazrat Eisa (A.S.)'s preaching and believed him. Through them, his teachings spread. Within days, he became famous and Bani Israel, because of their mischief, were disgraced and dishonoured. Even today, his good and bad followers exist in crores of numbers.

Exercise

A. Answer the following:

1. Why was Bibi Maryam (A.S.) sent to Baitul Maqdis?
2. What good news did the angel bring to Bibi Maryam (A.S.)?
3. Why was Bibi Maryam (A.S.) was anguished at the birth of Hazrat Eisa (A.S.)?
4. What was the effect of child's words on virtuous people?
5. What signs Hazrat Eisa (A.S.) showed to his people?
6. Why did Bani Israeel not believe in the message of Hazrat Eisa (A.S.)?
7. How did Bani Israeel treat Hazrat Eisa (A.S.)?

B. Some statements are given below. Tick them if they are correct or else write the correct answer in the bracket.

1. Hazrat Eisa (A.S.) was from among the Bani Ismaeel ( )
2. Hazrat Eisa (A.S.) had given the good news of the arrival of the last prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) ( )

3. Hazrat Eisa (A.S.) was summoned back by Allah ( )
4. Jins used to send eatables to the room of Bibi Maryam (A.S.) ( )
5. A man from among the enemies, resembling Hazrat Eisa (A.S.), was crucified. ( )

C. Fill in the blanks:

1. Hazrat Eisa (A.S.) was born many years after .....
2. The name of Hazrat Eisa (A.S.)'s mother was.....
3. .....looked after Bibi Maryam (A.S.) at Baitul Maqdis.
4. Allah bestowed .....on Bibi Maryam (A.S.).
5. The teachings of Hazrat Eisa (A.S.) spread through some .....

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Glossary

Aakhirat	Hereinafter, the life after death
Allaho-Akbar	Allah is the Greatest
Alhamdo-lillah	All praises are for Allah
Allah-Ta'ala	God, the exalted
Angel	Farishta (An innocent specie created by God out of light)
Arkaan	Pillars
Azan	Call for five times daily prayer
Innalillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajioon	To Allah we belong and unto Him we return.
Jehad	Utmost effort in the way of Allah
Khaleefah, Caliph	Vicegerent
Kiraman Katibeen	Strangers, angels who note down everybody's Deeds
Me'raj	Night of accession [when our beloved prophet (pbuh) was called to heavens by Allah]
Mimbar	Rostrum
Mu'azzin	Person who calls the Azan
Nabi	Prophet
Pharaoh (firaun)	Tyrant ruler of the ancient Egypt
Rasool Allah	The Messenger of God
Risalat	Prophethood
Salat (Namaz)	Prayer
Sana	A supplication (Dua) recited at the start of Salat
Soor	Trumpet to be blown on doomsday

Subhan Allah	Glory be to Allah
Sutrah	Screen/Barrier
Tauheed	Oneness of Allah
Tayammum	Dry Ablution
Wuzoo	Ablution
Zakat	One of the basic pillars of Islam in which a fixed amount of cash or kind is collected from the well to do of the society out of their wealth and land produce and given to the weak and needy of the society

Abbreviations

AS	Alaihis-Salam Peace be on Him (words to be said whenever Name of any Prophet is mentioned)
SAW or PBUH	Sallallahu-Alaihi Wasallam Peace and mercy of Allah be upon Him Peace Be Upon Him (Invocations to be said whenever the Name of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad is mentioned)
RA	Razi-Allaho-Anhu May Allah be pleased with him {an invocation to be said whenever the Name of any male companion (Sahabi) of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad is Mentioned}
R.A.	Razi-Allaho-Anha May Allah be pleased with her {an invocation to be said whenever the Name of any female companion of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Sahabia) is mentioned}
Zun Noorain	owner of two lights